

A CHRISTMAS DOWN UNDER

*by Andy & Jennifer
Hansen*



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A Christmas Down Under

**A comedy for Christmas
by Andy and Jennifer Hansen**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

GENERAL SATAN

LIEUTENANT GRUNGE

SERGEANT SLANDER

Cross between the liar character from *Saturday Night Live*
and someone very obnoxious, e.g., Gilbert Godfrey

MARY

ANNA

SARAH

MAJOR WORRIES

A nerdy nailbiter

JOSEPH

CELESTIAL

An angel who is an overly cheery sort

CORPORAL SELFISHNESS

A real whiner

SAM

An innkeeper

ABIGAIL

Innkeeper's wife who is a selfish nag

CAPTAIN CARNAGE

Played as an Italian thug

HEROD

DOUBLE AGENT APATHY

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play is a lot of fun to perform. It contains a subtle message designed to make people think. It runs about forty minutes in length. You can make this play as simple or as elaborate as you want in set and costumes. The following are suggestions based on the original production.

Set

Scene 1 — General Satan's army headquarters. A backdrop of painted flames, a large map of the Holy Lands with colored push pins placed on it at random so it resembles a strategy map, a desk, and a chair.

Scene 2 — Mary's home. A small table and three cushions for Mary and friends.

Scene 3 — Joseph's carpentry workshop. A stool, woodwork, and tools.

Scene 4 — Exterior of a house. This may be as simple as a fake doorway made of 2 x 4s.

Scene 5 — Herod's throne room. A throne-like chair.

All five scenes may be set up at different locations in your playing area, or stage hands may quickly remove the set pieces and replace them with those from the next scene.

We chose to have Satan's headquarters set in the back of the stage and left it set up throughout the entire play. Satan even stayed there and froze action between his scenes. For the rest of the action, we used a raised platform in front of the stage because our stage is very small.

Props

Reports and BLEEP! sign (for Lieutenant Grange)

Scrolls sitting on Satan's desk

Needlework (for Mary)

Hammer cozy (looks something like a knitted sock)

Sandpaper (for Joseph)

Pitchfork (for Satan)

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Costumes

General Satan: Army fatigues or more official-looking outfit.

Lieutenant Grange: Army fatigues.

Sergeant Slander: Army fatigues.

Mary: Nativity costume.

Anna: Nativity costume.

Sarah: Nativity costume.

Major Worries: Army fatigues and a nerdy pair of glasses.

Joseph: Nativity costume plus a cloak,

Celestial: Cheerleader outfit with a big "G" on it.

Corporal Selfishness: Army fatigues.

Sam: Nativity costume.

Abigail: Nativity costume.

Captain Carnage: Army fatigues.

Herod: Royal garb (robe and crown)

Double Agent Apathy: Army fatigues.

Scene 1

Army Headquarters of General Satan

(When the play begins, SATAN is studying papers on the table in front of him when a knock sounds at the door.)

SATAN: Enter.

LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Here are the evening reports, Your Scummyness.

SATAN: (*Thoughtfully*) Anything unusual?

LIEUTENANT GRUNGE; No. Actually, things are going pretty well up there. We're having wonderful success in all areas of the battle.

SATAN: (*Sounding a bit worried*) Are you sure? Things have been awfully quiet for a long time. He's got to be up to something. I know he's not going to sit back and let me corrupt everyone. Look at those reports again.

LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: (*Looking at reports*) Nope. Nothing too much out of the ordinary. Crime is up. Idolatry is up. Hypocrisy is going nicely. Adultery always looks promising. Other than that ... Wait! You'll get a laugh out of this. One girl got pregnant before she got married.

SATAN: Good, good. But that's not out of the ordinary, you idiot.

LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Yeah, but listen to her excuse. (*Laughing*) She's claiming that God made her pregnant and she wasn't unfaithful to her fiancé. That's even better than the one girl who said that aliens from space got her pregnant.

SATAN: (*Obviously unamused*) This doesn't sound good! This whole situation reeks of prophecy! I hate those stupid prophecies!

LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Oh, no! (*Shudders.*) We're not going to have another Isaiah or Daniel on our hands, are we? I thought we were through dealing with those guys.

SATAN: I'm afraid it's worse than that. All my experience tells me that my Enemy is getting ready to send his Son to fight the most important battle. This is crucial to our

1 mission! If we fail to exterminate this Son, then we are
 2 facing untold peril and hardships like redemption,
 3 salvation, grace! *(With each of these last three words,*
 4 *LIEUTENANT GRUNGE acts like he/she has been struck by a*
 5 *bullet.)* Oh, the horror of it all!

6 LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Easy, oh Disgusting One! There
 7 must be something we can do!

8 SATAN: Yes. Yes. I must not underestimate mankind's ability
 9 to screw up God's plans. They've never let me down
 10 before, even when there was only two of them. OK.
 11 What was the name of this girl?

12 LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Uh, Mary.

13 SATAN: Right. I think we can talk some sense into this Mary,
 14 and if not, we have a whole army of people ready to help
 15 us out. *(Goes to the door of his office.)* Sergeant Slander! Get
 16 your ugly face in here. *(Turning to LIEUTENANT*
 17 *GRUNGE)* That will be all for now.

18 LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Yes, Your Putridness. *(LIEUTENANT*
 19 *GRUNGE exits out door as SERGEANT SLANDER enters. The*
 20 *two collide.)* Hey, Slimeball, watch where you're going!

21 SERGEANT SLANDER: Why don't you watch it, Dirtbag?!

22 LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: Scumwad!

23 SERGEANT SLANDER: Slimeball!

24 LIEUTENANT GRUNGE: See you at my place on Friday?

25 SERGEANT SLANDER: Sure, I wouldn't miss it for the
 26 world. *(LIEUTENANT GRUNGE exits and SERGEANT*
 27 *SLANDER comes to stand before SATAN.)*

28 SERGEANT SLANDER: General Satan, you wanted to see
 29 me?

30 SATAN: Yes, Slander. I have a special assignment for you.
 31 Grunge just brought back reports that God has sent his
 32 Son to a virgin named Mary. Now I am reasonably sure
 33 that this has taken place in the Jerusalem sector. I want
 34 you to monitor our angelic radar detector for any
 35 movement that has occurred recently in that area.
 36 Investigate any and all sightings. If any of them have to
 37 do with a virgin named Mary, I want you to go in for a
 38 closer look.

- 1 SERGEANT SLANDER: Is that it? Is that all you wanted me
2 to do? I guess all those stories are true.
- 3 SATAN: What stories?
- 4 SERGEANT SLANDER: Word has it you're getting soft.
- 5 SATAN: What?!
- 6 SERGEANT SLANDER: Yeah, that's it, that's the ticket.
7 You've been going easy on the world. Letting a few
8 people off the hook, maybe. Why, I've even heard that
9 you've got daisies and little pink bunnies on the
10 wallpaper in your bathroom. Yeah, that's it.
- 11 SATAN: Now listen ... !
- 12 SERGEANT SLANDER: And Barry Manilow, yeah, you've
13 even been listening to Barry Manilow and feeling all
14 warm and fuzzy inside.
- 15 SATAN: *(Smiling)* Yes, you'll do nicely for this job. As I was
16 saying, after you have scoped out the situation, I want
17 you to go in and spread slanderous gossip about this
18 girl. I want you to create an atmosphere that would
19 make her want to get rid of this child as quickly as
20 possible. Work through her friends, family, and her
21 whole community.
- 22 SERGEANT SLANDER: That'll be easy enough. The way I
23 hear it, this whole thing's a lie, anyways. Yeah, that's
24 the ticket. She's covering up. She's got a whole slew of
25 boyfriends.
- 26 SATAN: Well, what are you waiting for? Get going, and
27 report back to me as soon as any new developments
28 occur.
- 29 SERGEANT SLANDER: *(Muttering as he/she leaves)* Yeah,
30 that's it. She's really not pregnant at all, it's just a ploy
31 to get attention. That's the ticket. Or maybe she's
32 insane ...
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Scene 2

Mary's Home

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(MARY and SARAH are sifting on cushions and talking. MARY is doing some kind of needlework, ANNA approaches "door" and knocks.)

MARY: Come in!

ANNA: *(Entering)* Hi, Mary. Hi, Sarah.

MARY: Hi, Anna!

SARAH: Pull up a seat, Anna, and join the party.

ANNA: Oh Mary, you must see what I made for your Joseph as a wedding present. *(ANNA pulls out what appears to be a knitted tube sock.)*

MARY: *(Raising her eyebrows)* That's wonderful, Anna. Uh ... what is it?

ANNA: It's a hammer cozy! Since Joseph is a carpenter, I thought it might help to keep his hammer warm when he's not using it.

MARY: Oh. Well ... how nice. I hope you didn't put much work into it.

ANNA: It only took me four days! I'm getting better at this.

SARAH: You spent four days on this? Anna, we need to find you a man.

ANNA: *(Disgustedly)* Well, I thought it was nice!

MARY: *(Sympathetically)* Oh, it is, Anna. Joseph will love it.

ANNA: *(Still hurt)* Well, it's easy for you two to talk. You both have your men. It's not easy finding a good man these days. *(Brightening a bit)* But I've kind of noticed that young man, Alexander. He has good buns.

SARAH: Yes, I agree. He is a fine baker. *(At this time, SERGEANT SLANDER enters and sneaks in behind the two friends. It is apparent that he is invisible since no one looks directly at him — they seem to look through him instead.)*

SARAH: *(In somber tone)* Speaking of men, Mary, how are you and Joseph getting along?

MARY: *(In questioning voice)* Fine. Why?

SARAH: Oh, nothing. It's just, well, we've heard some ugly rumors.

- 1 SERGEANT SLANDER: They weren't ugly! They were some
2 of my finest rumors yet.
- 3 MARY: About what?
- 4 ANNA: (*Butting in*) We heard you were preggo, got a bun in
5 the oven, you know, with child. Isn't that a hoot?!
- 6 MARY: It's true. (*SARAH and ANNA gasp. SERGEANT*
7 *SLANDER stage-whispers into SARAH'S ear.*)
- 8 SERGEANT SLANDER: Aha! So it is true! Be careful, she'll
9 probably try to make up some ridiculous excuse now,
10 like maybe aliens landed in their spaceship and got her
11 pregnant.
- 12 SARAH: This is horrible, Mary! Does Joseph know?
- 13 MARY: Now, it's not horrible, and yes, Joseph knows. But it
14 wasn't Joseph who got me pregnant. (*SARAH and ANNA*
15 *gasp again.*)
- 16 SERGEANT SLANDER: (*Shouting in a very pleased manner*) *Hel-*
17 *lo!* I'm going to have a field day with this one!
- 18 ANNA: But but then who is the father?
- 19 MARY: God is. You see, God made me pregnant, not anyone
20 else.
- 21 SERGEANT SLANDER: Now that's believable! It's God's
22 baby! Of course. Happens every day. Perfectly
23 acceptable. *Not!*
- 24 ANNA: You don't really believe that, do you? I mean ... well,
25 it just can't be.
- 26 SARAH: Anna's right, Mary. You can't stick with that story.
27 Now, if Joseph isn't going to accept responsibility ...
- 28 MARY: No! You don't understand! It really is God's baby.
- 29 SERGEANT SLANDER: (*To audience*) That's it, she's cracked
30 The poor girl has slipped over the edge. She's not
31 knitting with a full ball of yarn.
- 32 ANNA: Oh Mary, we can help you.
- 33 MARY: But I don't need any "help." This is an incredible
34 blessing. (*SERGEANT SLANDER whispers to SARAH.*)
- 35 SERGEANT SLANDER: She's deluded, but we can help.
36 There are other ways of "dealing" with unwanted
37 babies.
- 38 SARAH: Mary, we don't want to see you hurt. You could go

1 away for a while, you know, to visit family or
2 something, get rid of the baby, and then come back. No
3 one will be the wiser. We'll cover for you. I know, we'll
4 say you had to go out of town for that "census" thing we
5 just heard about.

6 SERGEANT SLANDER: (*Looking at SARAH*) Hey, that's a good
7 lie. Mind if I use it sometime?

8 MARY: (*Throwing down her sewing*) No! No! No! This baby is the
9 Son of God! A blessing, conceived by the Holy Spirit
10 only. I am not ashamed, I am blessed! Even if Joseph
11 rejects me and I become the laughingstock of the whole
12 country, I will still consider myself blessed! Good-bye!
13 (*MARY stomps off. ANNA and SARAH look at each other,*
14 *shake their heads sadly, and slowly move off after her while*
15 *SERGEANT SLANDER watches them go. All exit except for*
16 *SERGEANT SLANDER. He addresses the audience.*)

17 SERGEANT SLANDER: Satan isn't going to like this, but
18 what can you expect when I have to work with fairly
19 honest, good-natured junk like those two? I might as
20 well face the music. I just hope he doesn't give me
21 latrine duty again. You think toilets on earth get
22 stopped up. Let me tell you, they don't call this hell for
23 nothing. (*He walks into the army headquarters where SATAN*
24 *is waiting for a report.*) General Satan, sir. Sergeant
25 Slander reporting as requested.

26 SATAN: Well, Sergeant, were you successful? Were you able
27 to convince the young lady that she would be wise to rid
28 herself of this baby?

29 SERGEANT SLANDER: Uh, I'm working on it. Yeah, that's it.
30 My plan is falling perfectly into place. Everything's
31 flowing as smoothly as mucous out a warthog's nose. I
32 just need a little more time.

33 SATAN: (*Angrily*) Is she going to get rid of the baby or not?

34 SERGEANT SLANDER: This place will freeze over before she
35 gives up that baby.

36 SATAN: (*Very angry*) Aaaaauugh! So it would seem that God
37 has chosen well. However, Sergeant, I am still very
38 displeased with you. I expected much more from a

1 seasoned professional like yourself. You may consider
2 your vacation request to Club Dead denied, and you
3 will spend the next week sharpening my pitchfork. Is
4 that understood, Sergeant?

5 SERGEANT SLANDER: Yes, Your Cunningness. May I be
6 dismissed?

7 SATAN: One more thing. *(Smiling)* Latrine duty for three
8 hundred fifty years. Now get out of here, and send me
9 Major Worries. *(SERGEANT SLANDER groans and exits as*
10 *SATAN paces.)* It would seem as if that portion of my
11 plan did not work, but we are not yet defeated. It is time
12 for Phase two. *(MAJOR WORRIES knocks and enters.)*

13 MAJOR WORRIES: *(In a whiny voice)* Sergeant Slander said
14 that you wanted to see me, Your Slimyness.

15 SATAN; Ah, Major Worries! I have a tremendously important
16 assignment for you to carry out. The course of our
17 battle against Mr. Goody Two-Shoes depends on you.

18 MAJOR WORRIES: Important. Oh no. There's probably a lot
19 riding on this, isn't there? Oh, oh, I don't think it will
20 work. There's so much that can go wrong.

21 SATAN: Now listen and shut up. I want you to pay a little
22 visit to a carpenter named Joseph. He is the fiancé of
23 the woman who is carrying God's Son! He isn't
24 convinced whether or not he should still marry Mary. I
25 want you to use your persuasive powers of doom and
26 gloom to convince him that remaining a bachelor would
27 be his best option.

28 MAJOR WORRIES: Ohhhh my. Maybe I'll get the wrong guy.
29 Maybe I'll say the wrong thing. Oh my. I could screw up
30 everything. Or what if an angel shows up, maybe? Oh
31 no, that would be terrible. I'm soooo worried.

32 SATAN: Mary has decided to have this baby no matter what,
33 but I think that if Joseph remains isolated from her, she
34 will have a difficult time. When she finds out how hard
35 it will be raising the Messiah on her own with little or
36 no family support, she will be easily discouraged from
37 being a good mother. Besides, with no strong father
38 figure there to guide and support him, the boy could be

Joseph's Carpentry Workshop

JOSEPH: (*Talking out loud to himself*) Lord, you know that I love you, but how can you expect me to believe that Mary is carrying your child and that you want me to raise him as mine? This just seems so improbable. Besides, you can't possibly believe that I'm the right man for the job. I'm just a nobody carpenter. I'm hardly perfect.

CELESTIAL: Nobody is perfect, Joseph, but you are the perfect one for the job that God has called you and Mary to. He is calling you to be Mary's husband and the father to his Son. All you have to do is say that you'll accept the responsibility. *(Suddenly MAJOR WORRIES appears on JOSEPH'S left. He, too, cannot be seen by JOSEPH but can be seen by CELESTIAL. JOSEPH appears noticeably confused by what is going on.)*

MAJOR WORRIES: Oh no, no, no. I knew something would go wrong. An angel. My, oh my! Why did you have to show up? Oh dear, now things are so much harder. *(Leaning over to talk with JOSEPH)* Fatherhood, and to the Messiah as well. And you don't have any experience! Think of all the disasters waiting to happen. Maybe you'd let him get hurt, or maybe you won't feed him the right things, or maybe you won't raise him right. Then you'd be responsible for destroying the Messiah. There's sooooo much that can go wrong.

JOSEPH: That's a good point. I don't want to lead this boy in the wrong way. I'd probably do more damage than good.

1 After all, I've had no experience in this father thing.
2 Why couldn't God have dropped this on someone with a
3 little more fatherly ability?

4 CELESTIAL: (*To MAJOR WORRIES*) Major Worries, get a life.
5 It's not going to work this time. (*In JOSEPH'S ear*)
6 Joseph, you are a good man, and you have plenty of
7 fatherly ability. Besides, do you really think for one
8 moment that God would give you such a huge task and
9 then not give you the guidance you'll need to carry it
10 out? He will be with you through all of this. He won't
11 desert you if you ask for help.

12 MAJOR WORRIES: Ohhhh, I don't know. I mean, look what
13 he's done to you so far. He's made you a father without
14 your consent and also made you the laughingstock of
15 the community. Ohhhh, how can you be fit to raise a
16 child now?

17 JOSEPH: That's right! How can I be a moral leader to this
18 child if I'm an idiotic outcast to the religious
19 community? I have done nothing wrong, so why am I
20 the one being punished?

21 CELESTIAL: Don't listen to him, Joseph. He's a paranoid
22 fool. You are not being punished; you are being
23 honored. God has chosen you to be the father to his Son.
24 He needs you. These rumors and people will all be gone
25 someday, but you will be remembered for your part in
26 the greatest event in history. You are important,
27 Joseph. God wouldn't choose you if he didn't see
28 something special in you.

29 JOSEPH: (*Sighing*) I guess I never thought of it that way. I've
30 been pretty self-centered. I just want the best for this
31 baby.

32 MAJOR WORRIES: But Joseph! How do you expect to care
33 for this child? You're just a beginning carpenter. This
34 child is supposed to be a king. You can just barely
35 provide for yourself and Mary. How do you think you
36 can give this king what he deserves? Oh no, it's all
37 wrong. You can't do it, and you don't have to do it.

38 JOSEPH: This is a lot for a man like me to take on. I'm just a

1 simple carpenter. I can't possibly be everything that
2 God's Son needs. I'm sure that he really just wanted
3 Mary. She will be an excellent mother to the Messiah.
4 God can provide her another husband. One that is
5 much more up for a job like this one.

6 CELESTIAL: (*Desperately*) Joseph, wait! Your worth lies far
7 beyond your standard of living. God isn't looking for a
8 father to provide material things for his Son. That
9 would defeat the whole purpose of sending the child in
10 the first place. When this baby grows up, he will be a
11 man who identifies with the common people. Someone
12 who knows their poverty and pain. Only a man who has
13 experienced the pain of the people is fit to carry their
14 sins on his shoulders. You are a good and decent man
15 who will give all of his children a godly heritage. God
16 only asks that you love this baby as if he truly were
17 your own. God needs you, Joseph. Mary needs you. Go
18 to her, and let her know that you will stand by your
19 promises. Go tell her you do love her. (*In cheerleader-like*
20 *manner*) Go, Joseph! Go, Joseph! Go, Joseph! Go, Joseph!

21 JOSEPH: Yes! That's what I must do. I really love Mary and
22 want to spend my life with her. If this is what God
23 wants us to do, then I am going to quit worrying and let
24 God take over. If I leave right away, I can tell Mary
25 before sundown. (*JOSEPH gets up, picks up a cloak, and*
26 *exits.*)

27 CELESTIAL: Joseph, Joseph, he's our man. If he can't do it,
28 no one can!

29 MAJOR WORRIES: Ohhhh my, I knew it would go wrong.
30 You always spoil my plans.

31 CELESTIAL: You should know by now that you and all of
32 Satan's legions will ultimately be defeated. It's just a
33 matter of time. Speaking of time, I really need to get
34 going. I'm expected for choir practice. We're warming
35 up tfor the big birth announcement. Ciao! (*She blows*
36 *MAJOR WORRIES a kiss, then exits.*)

37 MAJOR WORRIES: Angel cooties! She gave me angel cooties!
38 I'll have to take slime baths for a week to get rid of

1 them. How will I ever explain this disaster to General
2 Satan? I might as well get this one over with and take
3 my punishment. *(He crosses the stage to the army*
4 *headquarters. Timidly)* Your Wretchedness, I have come
5 back to report on Assignment Joseph.

6 SATAN: What is that horrible stench, Major? It's angel
7 cooties, isn't it? You have allowed yourself to be
8 touched by an angel and thus pollute my domain. I can
9 only surmise from your smell and your demeanor that
10 you failed to bring Joseph around to our way of
11 thinking. Is that a correct assessment?

12 MAJOR WORRIES: I told you it wouldn't work. There was
13 soooo much that could go wrong, and then to top it off,
14 an angel showed up.

15 SATAN: You must know that I am very displeased with you,
16 Major, but since I can't stand the smell of you right now,
17 I am going to postpone disciplinary actions against you.
18 Get to the slime pits immediately, and return in one
19 week. You are dismissed for now, but send in Corporal
20 Selfishness right away. *(MAJOR WORRIES exits.)* This is
21 not good at all. I must find a way to foul up God's plan.
22 I simply can't have him winning this battle. *(A knock*
23 *sounds at the door and CORPORAL SELFISHNESS enters.)*

24 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: General Satan, sir. Major
25 Worries told me that you wanted to see me. Is there
26 something you have for me? Is there something about
27 me you wanted to talk about? How does this affect me?
28 Am I up for a promotion? Are you going to give me
29 something? Because if it's not about me, I don't want
30 anything to do with it.

31 SATAN: Corporal Selfishness, I need you to take a little trip
32 for me. I have been studying theses Scriptures from the
33 enemy, *(Picks up some scrolls on desk)* and it appears that
34 the Christ child is to be born in a small town called
35 Bethlehem. At some point in time, Joseph is going to
36 have to take Mary to Bethlehem for a census.

37 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: So far I don't see how this
38 affects me.

1 SATAN: I want you to go to Bethlehem and make sure that
 2 they aren't welcomed by the good people of the town.
 3 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: But what's in it for me? What do
 4 I get out of it? Isn't there anything in this for me?
 5 SATAN: (*Irritated*) Sure there is. If you succeed, I won't throw
 6 you into the burning oil pits and let other demons scorn
 7 you and poke you with their pitchforks.
 8 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: (*Scared*) Uh ... OK. (*CORPORAL*
 9 *SELFISHNESS salutes and exits.*)

10

11

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Scene 4

13

The Exterior of a House

14

15 (*CORPORAL SELFISHNESS enters and stands in front of the*
 16 *door.*)

17 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: Well, this is the last place they
 18 could go. Everywhere else is jam-packed. What a dump.
 19 I can't believe I got this assignment. I never get
 20 anything good. I deserve better, and I shouldn't have to
 21 work for it, either. I deserve the good life just because
 22 I'm me. (*Sees JOSEPH.*) Uh-oh, here he comes. I'd better
 23 get ready. (*JOSEPH enters looking tired and discouraged. He*
 24 *knocks on the door. SAM, the innkeeper, opens the door.*)

25 SAM: I'm sorry, but we're full already. All of our rooms have
 26 been taken. (*He starts to close the door.*)

27 JOSEPH: No, wait, please! You must have something we can
 28 use. You see, my wife out there is pregnant and has
 29 already started labor pains. We are desperate for help!

30 SAM: (*Starting to melt*) I didn't see her. She looks like she's
 31 having a really tough time. Let me think a minute ...

32 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: Hey buddy, you don't need this.
 33 It's late and you have a million other guests to attend to.
 34 You don't need the money or the hassle.

35 SAM: I'm sorry ...

36 ABIGAIL: (*Coming to the door*) Honey, who is it at this hour?
 37 We really need to get our sleep. Tomorrow is going to be
 38 a big day. (*She sees JOSEPH.*) Oh, hello. I didn't see you

1 standing there.

2 SAM: This man and his wife are trying to find a place to
3 spend the night. His wife is in labor. Can you think of
4 what we might do?

5 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: (*Leans over and talks to ABIGAIL.*)
6 Oh no, trouble! And it's so late. You've worked hard. You
7 deserve your rest. You have your rights. You don't need
8 this hassle!

9 ABIGAIL: Every spare inch of space we have is taken. There
10 is no way we could make you and your wife comfortable
11 here.

12 JOSEPH: Ma'am, we aren't asking for comfort, just a place
13 out of the elements where Mary can lie down to have
14 this baby. We've come such a long way, and we've been
15 turned down everywhere else. Please, won't you
16 reconsider?

17 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: This couple is not your
18 responsibility. What if something should go wrong with
19 the delivery? They would probably hold you
20 responsible. Think of the lawsuits, the bad publicity,
21 the guilt. You'd go broke ...

22 ABIGAIL: (*Fuming to her husband*) Dear, I wish that you could
23 help them, but we even have our in-laws taking up our
24 room. I think that these two would be better off if we
25 could send them out of town — to a midwife, perhaps.
26 We wouldn't know what to do if there was trouble with
27 her delivery.

28 SAM: You do have a point, Abigail, (*CORPORAL*
29 *SELFISHNESS nods and looks pleased at this*) but look at
30 that woman. She isn't going to make it to the next
31 house, let alone to the next village. We wouldn't be very
32 hospitable to turn away such a need as this.

33 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: (*Suddenly looks panicked.*) This
34 doesn't look good.

35 SAM: (*Turns to JOSEPH.*) Sir, I have something in mind that
36 might help you out a little. There is a small grotto out
37 back where we keep the animals. It isn't much, but I do
38 keep it clean, and it's warm and dry. What do you think?

1 JOSEPH: What do I think? I think that you are a lifesaver. It
2 sounds just like what we need. Can we go there right
3 now? I really need to get my wife off that donkey. She
4 has been through so much. By the way, how much do we
5 owe you?

6 SAM: You don't owe us anything.

7 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: You can't let him do this to you,
8 Abigail.

9 ABIGAIL: Sam!

10 SAM: No, Abigail. I couldn't take money for putting them up
11 in a stable. This is the very least that we can do
12 considering the circumstances. *(SAM leads JOSEPH Off-*
13 *stage.)*

14 ABIGAIL: That man is going to cause us to go to the
15 poorhouse yet. Well, you'd better believe that he is
16 going to take care of those strays and not me. *(She exits.*
17 *CORPORAL SELFISHNESS is left On-stage alone.)*

18 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: Now, there is a woman after my
19 own heart. Too bad she had to marry a worthless man.
20 Now what am I going to do? What's going to happen to
21 me? Those burning oil pits are the pits. I don't deserve
22 this. I got them out of the inn like I was supposed to. I
23 deserve a medal. I've always deserved a medal, just
24 because I'm me. *(CORPORAL SELFISHNESS walks back to*
25 *the army headquarters where SATAN is studying more written*
26 *reports.)*

27 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: General Satan, sir. Corporal
28 Selfishness reporting as requested.

29 SATAN: *(Obviously getting frustrated by these reports)* It's about
30 time, Corporal. You have kept me waiting for a very
31 long time. You had better have good news for me. I don't
32 think that I can take any more bad news.

33 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: Well, Your Corruptness, it's not
34 entirely bad.

35 SATAN: What do you mean, it's not entirely bad?!

36 CORPORAL SELFISHNESS: Well, I didn't have much to
37 work with, and I really did an excellent job, considering
38 what I had to work with and considering that I deserve



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