

Where's Baby Jesus?

[Scene: Three chairs with props under – chair one, Christmas pudding and stuffed Santa, chair two bottle of sherry, chair three a box of crackers. Small table in front of chairs. Shepherd and Wise Man already sat on chairs on stage, talking, sketch starts in mid-conversation]

Shepherd: And the man shouts across “Oi! Jesus! Shut the door! What? Were you born in a barn?” Born in a barn! Ha ha!

[Wise Man rolls his eyes and shakes his head. Enter Angel eating a chocolate bar]

Shepherd: Is everybody else ready?

Angel: More or less. It's ok, were not on stage for another ten minutes

Shepherd: Well don't get chocolate down you

Angel: Yes mum! Oh, Geof says Mary and Joseph need the crib so you can take that over to them now

Shepherd: Where is it? *[Angel shrugs – turn to Wise Man]* O Wise One, where is the crib?

Wise Man: It's where you left it after the last rehearsal

Shepherd: Are you being purposefully cryptic? Because it's not big and it's not clever!

[Wise Man points behind screen, Shepherd goes to get it]

Shepherd: Right! One crib *[puts crib on table so audience can clearly see it]*

Wise Man: Er...where's Baby Jesus?

Shepherd: Good point *[returns behind screen to look]*. He's not here...

Angel: What do you mean he's not there? Have a proper look!

Shepherd: He's still not here...

Angel: Let me look! *[goes behind screen]* I can't see him either!

Wise Man: I'll look *[goes behind screen]*

Angel: I'll check over here...

Shepherd: I'll check over here...

[all move to different areas of the stage and pretend to search for Baby Jesus. After some rummaging with our backs to the audience, we all turn to face front, one at a time, with just our heads appearing]

Shepherd: *[head popping up from behind something mid stage]* He's not here

Wise Man: *[head popping out from behind forward screen]* He's not here

Angel: *[head popping out from behind screen at back of stage]* He's not here!

Wise Man: We can't do the story of Christmas without him!

[all run round screaming and waving arms in panic!]

Shepherd: OK, nobody panic! What we need is a filler!

Wise Man: A filler?

Shepherd: Yes! *[waving his hands about, searching for the words]* You know, a substitute! Something we can use in the place of Baby Jesus

Angel: Ooh! Like this box of crackers! *[grabs them from under chair]* They're Christmassy! *[puts them in the crib – all the following is done in a frantic fashion]*

Shepherd: They're no good, they're too square!

Wise Man: Try this! *[passing over a bottle of sherry]*

Angel: Where did that come from??

Wise Man: It's in case Santa visits me here rather than at home, I've been spending so much time here lately...

[Shepherd and Angel roll their eyes, then they try putting bottle in]

Shepherd: Big body, little head *[turns it round]*

Angel: Little body, big head. It's like a Rugrat version of Baby Jesus, it's disturbing *[takes bottle out]*

Shepherd: Christmas pudding! *[gets a pudding from under his chair, puts it in the crib]*

Angel: It's too little...Ooh! I know what we can use! *[goes to top of stage stairs, about to head down, hitches up angel costume so as not to trip on it, showing stripey long socks]*

Shepherd: Where are you going?

Angel: I won't be a minute! *[goes down stairs, out of door into corridor]*

[while Angel is out the room Shepherd and Wise Man carry on]

Wise Man: How about using the pudding as a head and the sherry as a body?

[Shepherd tries that]

Wise Man: Crackers as body?

[they try that, still doesn't look right]

Wise Man: Have you got anything else in your bag?

[Shepherd gets out stuffed Santa or a stocking with Santa on it, and they try that in the crib]

Wise Man: Baby Jesus has got a beard now!

[Angel comes back with frozen turkey]

Angel: Cold Baby Jesus! Cold Baby Jesus! *[takes out Santa, puts in turkey]*

Wise Man: You have got to be kidding!

Shepherd: *[lining up the crackers, pudding, turkey, sherry and stocking/stuffed Santa in front of the crib]* It's all nice Christmas stuff, but it doesn't add up to Jesus...

[enter man(Geof) carrying Baby Jesus doll]

Man (Geof): Are you missing something?

Angel: I could kiss you! *[man looks horrified, Angel rushes over takes Baby Jesus and kisses it. Man looks relieved! Exit man.]*

Shepherd: It's a miracle! I thought we were going to have to sing "away from the manger"!

Angel: *[talking to Baby Jesus]* I'm so glad you're here with us! Nothing else could replace you!

Wise Man: Are we all ready now?

Shepherd: Yes, all present and correct! Come on...

[Shepherd picks up crib with Jesus in it and we all exit off back of stage]

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