

DoveTale

By Ted Swartz, Lee Eshleman and Ingrid De Sanctis

YOUR EYES?

Characters: Mary, Joseph, Gabriel

Props: Baby wrapped in a blanket, 2 wooden crates, wedding napkin

Length: 2-3__ minutes

(MARY and JOSEPH are sitting together and looking at the baby. MARY is holding the baby and rarely looks up at JOSEPH during the following. They are both relaxed and amazed at the baby in their arms.)

MARY: I think he has your eyes.

JOSEPH: I don't think so.

MARY: Guess not.

JOSEPH: It kinda looks like your nose.

MARY: That's not my nose.

JOSEPH: Guess not. *(Looks again at the baby)* Your eyes?

MARY: Nope. He doesn't look like me. *(Beat)* He doesn't look a bit like you either. *(Beat)* He's beautiful.

JOSEPH: He's perfect.

MARY: He's our baby.

JOSEPH: Yes. He is. Let me hold him.

(MARY hesitates for a moment, then hands the baby to JOSEPH.)

MARY: There you go.

JOSEPH: He sure feels...

MARY: *(Interrupting)* I think so too. *(Starts to get distracted thinking about what is next)* Hey, Joseph, do we have enough diapers at home?

JOSEPH: Yes, we do.

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MARY: And the crib is built, I mean, you sanded it down and there won't be any splinters for the baby...

JOSEPH: Uh huh.

(As the couple sits together, GABRIEL enters, watching and waiting quietly for the right moment to interrupt.)

MARY: I forgot to tell Mom and Dad when we'd be home.

JOSEPH: I called them last night.

MARY: *(Honestly)* Do you think we can do this?

JOSEPH: *(JOSEPH looks at her.)* Yes, Mary, we can.

GABRIEL: *(Enters)* Yes, you can.

(MARY is thrilled to see GABRIEL there. She reaches out her hand to him. He takes it.)

MARY: Gabriel.

GABRIEL: You did it.

(MARY keeps looking at GABRIEL as she asks JOSEPH if he knows GABRIEL, so she does not notice his expression.)

MARY: Joseph, do you know Gabriel?

JOSEPH: *(Looks at GABRIEL)* Yes, we've met.

GABRIEL: But, we haven't. *(Indicating the baby)* I made a little something for him. *(Pulls out a full-size wool sweater from his suitcase.)* It's a little big. He'll have to grow into it. May I hold him?

(JOSEPH hands the baby to GABRIEL.)

GABRIEL: Wow.

JOSEPH: Be careful with his head. Just put your hand right under his head. Yeah. That's good. Be careful or he'll spit up on you. Yeah, that's better. Nice.

JOSEPH: He's something, isn't he?

GABRIEL: Oh, yes he is. *(GABRIEL can sense the holiness of the moment.)* Yes, he is.

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GABRIEL: Am I doing something? He's waking up. He's a bit restless ... whoa; he's got a lot of energy. Oh. His face is ... *(Makes a face)* ... He's not happy.

JOSEPH: Mary?

MARY: It's okay. Go ahead, Joseph.

JOSEPH: *(Takes the baby, who promptly spits up.)* Oh, that was a good one.

GABRIEL: Maybe this will help. *(Produces a napkin - the "forever on" napkin.)*

JOSEPH: Forever on.

GABRIEL: Can I get you anything else?

JOSEPH: No, I think we'll be fine.

GABRIEL: Well, I guess I should be going.

(MARY turns to him and looks into his eyes. She is full of gratitude.)

MARY: Thank you, Gabriel.

GABRIEL: *(Speaking to audience)* It's as easy as flying. What do they need me for? They have all they need right there. Someday he's gonna grow up, grow into that sweater. If something comes up, they'll be fine. We'll all be just fine. *(GABRIEL walks a bit downstage; looks back at the family.)* Well, Jesus is asleep right now. If you'd like, you could sing him a lullaby. I'll give you the first note, then you're on your own.

(Begins to sing "Silent Night" and walks into the audience as they start to sing. After the full first verse, GABRIEL comes back on stage and stands behind MARY and JOSEPH.)

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