

HARK AND HAROLD & THE CHRISTMAS STAR

By Karen Jones

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DEDICATION

*To all the little angels in our lives...
especially the ones with dirty faces and skinned knees*

STORY OF THE PLAY

The angel Gabriel has enough on his mind with lining up the Savior's birth. He's appeared before Mary, arranged for the Heavenly Hosts, and even ensured it will be a clear night for Jesus's birth. All he needs to do now is figure out a plan to notify the whole Earth about the birth of the Christ child. Suddenly, Adele, Lyric and Rachel burst into Gabriel's office complaining about the two hooligans. Hark and Harold are at it again, screaming like banshees rather than singing, creating an unexpected meteor shower, and running off to create more shenanigans. When they are found, dirty and disheveled, Harold has a great idea: Why can't the boys drive a fiery chariot through the heavens to announce the birth? It would look just like a star if they stayed high enough that people could only see the light. Gabriel agrees, and it just goes to show that everyone has a role in glorifying the Lord, even the most unexpected little ruffians.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 adults, 2 children)

GABRIEL (m): Archangel in charge of the preparations for the birth of the Christ Child

CHLOE (f): Gabriel's secretary

MICHAEL (m): Archangel in charge of God's army who patrols and guards the Earth

LYRIC (f): Heavenly Choir Director

RACHEL (f): Orchestra director

ADELE (f): Teacher in charge of the "angels-in-training"

HARK (m): Mischievous young angel. Tom Sawyer-type character

HAROLD (m): Mischievous young angel. Huck Finn-type character

Casting Note: *All genders may be changed to fit your own casting requirements. Adjust names and pronouns accordingly.*

SETTING

Gabriel's office in heaven. There is a desk and chair for Gabriel and another chair across the desk. The office has a bookshelf with scrolls, and a horn or trumpet hangs off one of the shelves. Optional Doric columns in background.

PROPS

Scrolls, charts, quill pens, trumpet, harps, conductor batons.

COSTUMES

All characters wear typical angel costumes with wings and halos. Michael is dressed in a short tunic with a breastplate and sword, carrying a helmet.

SOUND EFFECTS

Trumpet call

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(AT RISE: GABRIEL is sitting at his desk studying a scroll, quill pen in hand. CHLOE sits across from him taking notes.)

GABRIEL: Mary and Joseph?

CHLOE: En route.

GABRIEL: Angel choir?

CHLOE: In rehearsal.

GABRIEL: Weather?

CHLOE: Clear, starry night.

GABRIEL: *(Sits back in chair.)* Okay, is everything covered?

CHLOE: *(Studies HER notes and nods her head.)* As far as I can tell.

GABRIEL: Something tells me I'm missing something.

(MICHAEL enters from stage left.)

MICHAEL: Hey, got a minute?

GABRIEL: *(Glances up.)* Of course. Come on in. We could use a break. *(Sets his quill pen down.)* What can I do for you?

MICHAEL: One of my guards just came back from patrol. He noticed a meteorite shower in the east and wondered if you had scheduled one and forgot to inform us.

GABRIEL: No, I don't think so. Not that I can recall anyway. Chloe, get my star chart and we'll just check to make sure. I've been pretty busy of late. It might have slipped my mind.

CHLOE: *(Stands.)* Yes, sir. *(Exits SL.)*

MICHAEL: *(Takes Chloe's chair.)* Say, I've heard there's something big in the works.

GABRIEL: That's putting it mildly. It's the biggest thing since creation itself.

MICHAEL: Then it's true? God is actually sending His son down there?

GABRIEL: He is indeed. And believe me, it is no small task getting everything lined up.

MICHAEL: So, how are things going?

GABRIEL: Well, there have been a few bumps in the road, I'll admit. I'm discovering the truth about the old saying, "the devil's in the details."

MICHAEL: Now let's not give him credit in any of this.

GABRIEL: Oh, I'm not giving him any credit for anything. But I can assign blame. If he hadn't rebelled against God, none of this would be happening.

MICHAEL: That's true enough. But then mankind needs to take their fair share of the responsibility too. After all, they have free will. They didn't have to choose to listen to him.

GABRIEL: Well, Lucifer is pretty persuasive. If you remember, he managed to get a lot of our friends to follow his lead also.

MICHAEL: As if I could forget. It was a pretty intense fight casting them all out.

GABRIEL: And now he's down there spreading his poison throughout the world.

MICHAEL: Which is why my guards have to keep up their patrols. Who knows what he is planning next?

GABRIEL: Precisely. And that is why God is planning this whole thing. Sending His own Son down there to set things right.

MICHAEL: (*Shakes head.*) I'm not sure I understand. This is going to be a very dangerous mission. His Son will be under direct attack from Satan, and I've been ordered to stand down.

GABRIEL: I'm not so sure I understand it either. God works in mysterious ways. All I know is that I've been charged with making all the preparations and laying the groundwork.

MICHAEL: What were these problems you mentioned before?

GABRIEL: Oh, they were just a few minor inconveniences, really. The main objective went without a hitch. Mary agreed to do it. That was crucial. If she had refused, none of the rest would have been possible.

MICHAEL: That's true. She's really putting herself out there. You know what she is going to have to face?

GABRIEL: Yes, I am aware. But she is a very brave young woman. God knew who He could trust with His Son.

MICHAEL: What about her betrothed? I heard he didn't take it too well.

GABRIEL: Yeah, that was one of my problems. He didn't believe Mary's story and was going to quietly divorce her. I had to make an appearance to him in a dream to put him at ease.

MICHAEL: Well, you know he had to have his doubts. It's only natural.

GABRIEL: I suppose. I also had a problem with Zechariah. He didn't believe me when I told him he would father the forerunner of the Messiah. He was struck dumb for his unbelief.

MICHAEL: Doesn't make sense, does it? All these years they've been praying for deliverance and when God starts to act, they back off.

GABRIEL: Human nature, I guess. All those doubts and fears. *(Beat.)* But God will work it out. He always does.

MICHAEL: True. So, how are you going to pull off getting the birth to take place in Bethlehem? Aren't they from Nazareth? That's a pretty far distance to travel.

GABRIEL: Actually that was the easiest part. You know how Caesar loves money. Just a little whisper in his ear of a new way to collect some taxes and he's all in. We'll have to keep a close watch on Herod, though. He is both wicked and paranoid, and he'll see the child as a threat.

MICHAEL: Don't worry about him. I've made it my personal mission to keep an eye on that old fox. Do you need anything else from us?

GABRIEL: No, I think I have everything else covered. *(Glances down at the list again.)* Lyric is rehearsing the choir for their part in the announcement.

MICHAEL: Announcement?

GABRIEL: Yes. When the birth takes place, we're going to announce the news to some shepherds around Bethlehem.

MICHAEL: Shepherds? Really? They don't have much sway with the general population. You'd think with something of this magnitude, God would give the news to the "movers and shakers" on Earth, not a bunch of lowly shepherds

End of Freeview

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