

## ANGELS WITH A "G"

Narrator: And so, verily, verily, henceforth and forthwith, it came to pass, that in the six month...

Mary: (on iPhone). What?? Elizabeth is pregnant?? My Cousin? No way? Her husband is old enough to be her father!

Narrator: (Darth Vader voice) "Luke, I am your father!"

Mary: What???

Narrator: Sorry, it was a Star Wars joke. After all, it's the season...

Mary: (scrolling through news on iPhone) Quiet! This is important! So Elizabeth says she's going to have a baby! No way! Zechariah is SO OLD. He must be at least 45! And she's pregnant? That's impossible!

Narrator: (clearing throat to interrupt) And so, verily, henceforth and forthwith, it came to pass...

Mary: Will you shut up. I'm trying to ponder, hashtag "wistfully..."

Narrator: Err, sorry.

Mary: (wistfully) (**cue orchestral music**) My cousin Elizabeth is going to have a baby. At her age! (melodramatically, hand to forehead) And here am I, forced by my parents to marry this "Joseph", a carpenter's apprentice.

(**music stops**) (Mary drops pretence). Mind you, he is rather nice. At first I was terrified of him, but (cooly) he's kind of grown on me.

Narrator: (clearing throat to get attention) AND SO IT CAME TO PASS, that in the sixth month an angel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a young woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David.

(pause)

Narrator: I SAID, AN ANGEL WAS SENT BY GOD! ARE THERE ANY RANDOM ANGELS IN THE VICINITY?? (calling right and left) IN PARTICULAR, ANGELS WHOSE NAMES START WITH THE LETTER "G"

(Two angels enter, stage right and stage left)

Gerald: Angel? Did someone call for an angel?

Gabriel: Sorry, I was just having lunch. Angel food cake. Delicious! Angel at your service!

Narrator: Wait a minute. It says here that... "angel... sent to a town"... I can't see anything about two angels! Who are you?

Gabriel: Not that I need any introduction! I of course am the angel Gabriel, at your service.

Gerald: Not that I need any introduction. I, of course, am the angel Gerald (bows with a flourish), at your service.

Mary: Angels! Men angels! I may swoon! Hang on, can we get a selfie together?

(Mary and Angels take selfie)

Narrator: This is quite out of order! There's nothing here in the script... Hang on... Galilee... Gabriel Yes! And... you said your name was Gerald?

(Gerald nods vigorously)

Narrator: Well... I can't see a Gerald... This seems somewhat irregular. Look, let's just proceed. And the angel or angels came to her and said....

(pause, Narrator looks at angels) AND SAID...

Gabriel: Ah, yes! The message! I have it here somewhere (begins looking in pockets)

Gerald: (bewildered) A message? Right. errr... a message.... err... I'm sure I have a message! (looks desperately in pockets.

Gabriel (pulls large scroll from back pocket): Here it is!

Gerald (finds piece of paper on the ground): Got it.  
(from this point on, Gerald is bluffing. He doesn't have a message)

Gabriel: (to Mary) Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.

Mary: (blushing) Oh my stars, do you mean me? (takes a selfie)

Gerald: (to Mary, pretending to read) err... "Hello there, young woman. The... err... Lord is..."?  
(to Gabriel) What did you say?  
(pointing up) "You-know-who" is with (pointing at Mary) her?? You're making this up!

(to Mary) Hello there, very young and insignificant rural female child.. The.. errr... Most High God resides in a really big temple in Jerusalem, and lives behind a big curtain, where the High Priest can only go once a year on a special day. So I have no idea what he (points to Gabriel) is talking about.

(Mary looks puzzled)

Narrator: But she was much perplexed by the words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Mary: Hang on, what are you both saying? Are you here to sell me something? Or is this like a telephone scam? I mean, I don't even have a Windows computer.

Gabriel: Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favour with God!

Gerald: (looking horrified) No, no, no. What he meant to say was, "Mary, humble yourself and bow down, because we're talking about Yahweh, the creator of everything, the God above all gods, the almighty, omnipotent ruler of the universe!" When I think about the big guy, the all-powerful one, (whispers aloud to her) I get slightly terrified!

Mary: (to Gabriel) Favour? You mean God is pleased with me? Me? But I'm a nobody. Just a young woman in a country town.

Gerald: (to Gabriel) You see! My point exactly!

(to Mary) Sorry, earthling, there's been a misunderstanding.

Gabriel: You will conceive in your womb and bear a son...

Mary and Gerald: (shocked) WHAT?

Gerald: Where is this heading? You, I mean, WE, came here just to tell her that she's going to have a baby? I hate to tell you, but this NOT an uncommon biological phenomenon. Angels have better things to do than go around visiting every...

Gabriel: (to Gerald) You are starting to get on my nerves!

(to Mary) You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and name him Jesus.

(to Gerald) Get it, Jesus as in Yeshua as in Joshua, the guy who followed on from Moses and brought the Hebrew people into the Promised Land.

Gerald: Sure. I get it. Everybody names their kids after the great heroes of the faith. So let her pick the name, can't you? Control freak!

Mary: EXCUSE ME! I'm trying to be in shock here! Pay attention. WHAT? A BABY?? (takes selfie)

Hang on, I have to tweet this! Elizabeth will go insane. (tweets on phone)

Gabriel (to Mary): He will be great, and will be called to Son of the Most high, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Mary and Gerald: WHAT???

Gerald: Throne of David? Reign over the house of Jacob? Forever? Is this an episode of Game of Thrones?

(to Narrator) You see what's happened here. She's just a poor kid in a fishing village. This message was clearly intended for another recipient. Someone has to talk to distribution upstairs (points up).

(to Mary) Look, I'm really sorry. You seem like a nice person. I'm sure you'll have a lovely baby. And, you know, he might grow up to be a fisherman or a carpenter or a donkey whisperer, or, if you aim high, even a rabbi.

Mary: Will you two quit arguing?! What were you talking about? Having a baby? I mean... Joseph and I... We're only engaged... I mean, we've been to the movies a couple of times together. That's all! No, really.

Gerald: Oh, great! NO-ONE said ANYTHING about this! We're supposed to bring GOOD news. What is her family going to think? They're not even married! (to Gabriel) Hey pal, this isn't 1962!

Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most high will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.

Mary: Woah. This is starting to freak me out. I have no idea what that means.

Gerald: Nor do I.

Narrator: He means that God's Spirit is with you, and the child is God's child, and he is chosen to be a new kind of leader for all people.

(pause)

Gerald: Hang on. Rewind. God's Spirit. God's child. The house of David. A new kind of leader?

Narrator: Yes

Gerald: But, I mean (points to Mary) her? God only chooses the best.

Narrator: Well that's not true. Jacob was a cheat. David started out as an ordinary shepherd. God chooses unlikely and improbable people to be bearers of hope, even though we often mess things up. In fact the Eastern Orthodox churches call Mary "Theotokos" or "God-bearer". God chose you as well, Gerald.

(pause)

Gerald: I think God chose you, Gabriel.

Gabriel: I know God chose you, Mary.

Mary: God chose me. I have no idea why. But if this shows that God cares for all people, not just rulers and officials but everyone who thinks they are a nobody, then I have heard your message today. I could be a bearer of hope.

Lord, Here I am, your servant. Let it be as you have said.

Gerald: (to Gabriel) Well that worked out fine in the end. Who are we visiting next?

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