

Mary and the Magic Poof!

by
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Cast of Characters

MARY	Girlfriend of Joseph and self-proclaimed virgin
JOSEPH	Boyfriend of Mary
DONALD	Local healer often referred to as Dr. Don wears white lab coat and stethoscope (Can also play Kyle & Gabriel)
KYLE	Local newsboy who delivers the news via tablet, speaks like a “surfer dude”
GABRIEL	Angel who wears strap-on angel wings and speaks like Carson Kressley on Queer Eye for the Straight Guy

Place

The modest Nazarethian home of Mary, in the northern highlands of Galilee

Time

4 to 6 BCish. Don't ask me how this makes sense but I got it from what many consider a reliable source.

Act I
Scene 1

SETTING: The modest Nazarethian home of Mary, in the northern highlands of Galilee. Action takes place in living room where there is a couch. There is a front door, a door to an unseen kitchen, and a door to an unseen bedroom.

AT RISE: Joseph is returning from a long trip and Mary, visibly pregnant, is pacing as worried about telling him of her pregnancy.

(There is a knock at the front door. MARY pulls her robe closed to hide her belly. She opens front door. JOSEPH enters carrying a modern acoustic guitar strapped to his back.)

JOSEPH

Mary! I'm back!

MARY

Darling Joseph, I've missed you!

(MARY and JOSEPH embrace briefly and kiss.)

JOSEPH

Oh Mary, I've missed you as well! These carpenter seminars are way too long.

MARY

(noticing guitar) What's that you've got there?

JOSEPH

Ahh...my conference project.

(Removes guitar from his back and shows to MARY, his fingers following the curve.)

We were supposed to be making Lutes. Lutes! Three months work. Didn't go to plan. Perhaps I wasn't cut out to be a woodworker after all.

MARY

Don't be silly, Darling.

(Fingers follow curve of the guitar.)

It's amazing!

JOSEPH

Which reminds me.

(Puts guitar on couch and then turns to MARY.)

I've missed you so much these past months. Thought about you every moment I was working on my instrument. I can't stand to be separated from you for even one more day. We should get married!

MARY

Oh Joseph! I'd like nothing more than to marry you, but first I need to tell you something.

JOSEPH

Mary...On the way to the conference we passed through Tiberias, an adorable little fishing village right on the Sea of Galilee. We'll get married and find a cute little hut by the sea. What do you say?

MARY

That sounds amazing, Darling, but first I need to tell you something.

JOSEPH (wistfully)

And I could open a carpenter's shop and make lutes shaped like women and curio cabinets-

MARY

For sure, but I really need to tell you something.

JOSEPH (wistfully)

- and massive entertainment centers for everything we don't yet have and will not ever really need, and those little wooden things with slats that hold bar soap so it doesn't stick to the bathroom counter and-

MARY

Joseph!

JOSEPH

What?

MARY

Oh Joseph. Hold me. I'm afraid.

(JOSEPH tenderly takes MARY into his arms.)

JOSEPH

What is it Mary? You can tell me.

MARY

Darling, do you notice anything different about me?

JOSEPH

Well, now that you mention it your breasts seem much fuller than I previously remember.

MARY

Yes, well that's part of it.

JOSEPH

Part of what?

(MARY steps away from JOSEPH'S embrace and opens her robe, showing her belly.)

JOSEPH (Cont.)

(disappointed) I see... You've been eating my portion of the village's unleavened bread then? (happy) That's alright, Mary. I don't mind. And you look good with that extra weight.

MARY

It's not the bread. It's...It's...Joseph, I'm with child.

JOSEPH

With child? (looks around the room) With which child? Oh no. Is your cousin Nichole here with her numerous and highly obnoxious offspring?

MARY

No. Joseph, I'm expecting!

JOSEPH

You're expecting Nichole and her brood? When? Hopefully not today! I need to get a good nights rest after my long journey. Camel-Lag, you know.

MARY

Darling, I don't think you understand! I'm in a family way. (pause) I'm up the pole! (pause) Wearing the bustle wrong? I've got bacon in the drawer. (pause) I'm in the pudding club?

JOSEPH

Ummm...are you saying there's bacon *and* pudding?

MARY

I've got a bun in the oven!

JOSEPH (still oblivious)

And buns! Oh good! I am a little peckish from my long journey.

MARY

Joseph! I'm pregnant!

JOSEPH

You're...You're pregnant? Oh, my God! But how did this happen? Wait...was it that one time when we were doing that thing I like so much...and it slipped and...

MARY

No, Joseph. It wasn't that time. Besides, that doesn't count. I'm still a virgin, pure as the driven snow.

JOSEPH

Wait! Don't tell me it was that newsboy that comes around every week. What's his stupid name? Carl? Kirk?

MARY

It's Kyle and no. Of course it wasn't the newsboy Kyle!

JOSEPH

Oh...then that traveling carpenter from Capernaum! Him and his stupid exotic wood.

MARY

Jeff does have good wood, but no. Don't be ridiculous. It wasn't him.

JOSEPH

Don't tell me it was your ex-boyfriend Lazarus? God, I hate that guy.

MARY

Heavens, no! Didn't you hear? Lazarus has fallen ill. His parents sent him off to live with his Aunt Maggie near Mt. Carmel. Cleaner air by the ocean, you know.

JOSEPH

Then who?

MARY

No one! I swear it Joseph.

(There's a knock on the door which MARY opens. DONALD enters wearing a white Dr. coat and a stethoscope.)

DONALD

Mary. You called?

JOSEPH (accusatory)

(to MARY) Ah Ha! Another acquaintance from my time away? (to DONALD) You look familiar!

DONALD

I'm the local healer. We met years back when I delivered you from your mother's womb.

JOSEPH (stressed out)

Ah Ha! (triumphant, to MARY, although he's proven no point) I knew he looked familiar!

MARY

I brought Dr. Don here to explain. I've had an examination and I'm still a virgin. Right, Dr. Don?

DONALD

True, I did examine Mary a couple of months ago and she appeared to have been...untarnished.

MARY

See?

DONALD

But, well...that's before your belly started telling a different story.

MARY

No! I swear to you Joseph, I remain pure as the breast of a morning dove.

DONALD

Let's get real, Mary.

(MARY opens door and motions for DONALD to leave.)

DONALD (Cont.)

My fee? Not everyone is willing to make house calls these days you know.

MARY

Out you quack!

(DONALD exits adlibbing about mailing his bill.)

JOSEPH (shouty)

Alright. I've had enough of this! Tell me who's child you carry and tell me now!

MARY

Don't you get all shouty with me Joseph.

JOSEPH

You're right. (deep breath) You're right. Sorry. (deep breath) Please, Mary, tell me his name. I must know.

MARY

God.

JOSEPH

Excuse me?

MARY

God. God made me pregnant.

JOSEPH

What? Like when the Greek gods like Zeus and Poseidon would come down from Mount Olympus and impregnate human women?

MARY

Well, no. Not exactly.

(There's a knock at the door which MARY answers, KYLE enters wearing a newsie hat and carrying stone looking tablets.)

KYLE

Galilee Weekly?

MARY

It's not a great time, Kyle.

(JOSEPH puts his arm around KYLE'S shoulder and walks w/him like they're buddies.)

JOSEPH

Kyle, right? Kyle, you're a newsman, aren't you?

KYLE

I dunno brah. I guess so?

MARY

Good Lord. He just delivers the tablets!

JOSEPH

OK well, you're not Walter Cronkite-

KYLE

Walter what now?

JOSEPH

-but you're still involved with the news. You still care about the news, right?

KYLE

The news is a total drag brah. I'm just savin my dough to move to the coast. All I need are some tasty waves and-

JOSEPH

As I remember it, Zeus came down from Mount Olympus in order to have sex with human women right? Isn't that how Hercules, Perseus, and Helen of Troy came to be?

KYLE

Man, that's like really old news. Totally ancient history.

JOSEPH

As I recall, the gods were always taking the form of a bull or a swan or someone's husband. Wait!

(JOSEPH lets go of KYLE and turns to MARY.)

JOSEPH (Cont.)

Did God come down and pretend to be me? What did he say to convince you to give yourself to him? With me you were always like, (mocking) "No, Joe. Too far. Stop. I want to save myself for marriage."

KYLE

Girls can be such a drag brah.

MARY

I'm not a drag, but I am still a virgin, as pure as the driven snow.

JOSEPH

You said that before. You used that idiom already.

MARY

Did I? Right then, let me think... as pure as a lily of the valley, wafting in a summer's breeze.

KYLE

Brah, that's weak.

MARY

Alright... ummm...as pure as a delicate pearl still in its mother's shell.

KYLE

I was going to suggest the Beluga whale but-

JOSEPH

Enough! Mary...that belly you're wearing tells a different story.

KYLE

Not to mention the (makes big boobs motion with his hands) bigger boobs.

(MARY grabs a tablet from KYLE, gives him a coin, opens door, motions him to leave.)

KYLE (Cont.)

Somethin I said brah?

MARY

Get out!

(KYLE exits door, adlibbing surfer talk.)

JOSEPH

Alright, Mary, so if God didn't come down and take form of whatever or whoever-

MARY

Whomever.

JOSEPH

Really? Now? Right now with the vocabulary lesson? Why do you always do that?

MARY

Sorry. Sorry. Go on.

JOSEPH

Thank you. So if God didn't trick you into sleeping with him, and if you are still a virgin, then how in the world are you (makes air quotes) pregnant by God?

MARY

I don't know. It just sort of happened. There was a poof and then I was pregnant.

JOSEPH

A poof.

MARY

A poof.

(There's a knock at the door which MARY answers, GABRIEL enters wearing wings. He and MARY hug.)

GABRIEL

Mary! So nice to see you again! You look stunning. You're simply glowing, girl.

JOSEPH

Oh my God! Was there anyone who didn't visit you while I was gone?

GABRIEL

Oh, hello. You must be Joseph. I'm the angel Gabriel. God said you're having problems understanding Mary's situation.

JOSEPH (disbelief)

You. You're an angel?

GABRIEL

Archangel, but I don't want to be all braggy, right?

MARY

Darling, Gabriel explained it all to me and now he's here to provide you proof of the poof.

GABRIEL

Yes...well kind of. There's actually not exactly proof of the poof, and it's impractical to explain, and it's difficult to understand, and it's downright impossible to believe. You get the picture, right?

JOSEPH

That may be the most ambiguous statement I've ever heard.

GABRIEL

Honey, you just have to have faith in the poof.

JOSEPH

Faith in the poof? (to MARY) The guy wearing strap on wings wants me to have faith in the poof! I need a drink!

(JOSEPH turns and heads toward kitchen exit.)

GABRIEL

Vodka martini with a twist if you're offering!

(JOSEPH, grumbling and ignoring GABRIEL, exits to kitchen. MARY opens front door and motions for GABRIEL to leave.)

GABRIEL

Well! I did my best to explain but I don't think he's getting it. The poor boy is clueless!

MARY

You did fine. Really. He's just tired from the trip.

GABRIEL

Maybe it would be better if I came to him in a dream?

MARY

Sure sure. Come to him in a dream. Great idea. And we'll see you later then, OK? Tell God hello for us. Ok, bye bye now.

(GABRIEL exits adlibbing to himself. MARY closes the door and sits on couch next to guitar.)

MARY (Cont.)

(To herself) There must be some way to appeal to Joseph.

(Absentmindedly runs her fingers over the shape of the instrument.)

Hmm. Oh! I've got it! (Loudly, shouting to JOSEPH in the kitchen) Oh, Joseph!

JOSEPH

(OS Shouting.) What?

MARY

Darling, you still love me right?

JOSEPH

(OS Shouting.) Yes of course I still love you. I just need to drink and brood for a bit. I'll be fine.

MARY

(loudly, shouting to JOSEPH) Oh sure, sure. But you know, Joseph, things are going to change now.

JOSEPH

(OS shouting.) How so, Mary?

MARY

(Loudly, shouting to JOSEPH) Well, now that we're engaged, there's no reason not to do that *other* thing. The thing you've always wanted to do?

(JOSEPH enters from kitchen, eyes big. MARY sexily removes her robe and throws it at JOSEPH. Giggling she quickly exits to bedroom. JOSEPH looks at robe he's now holding, understands, smiles big, throws it on couch near/on guitar and runs out exit.)

LIGHTS OUT