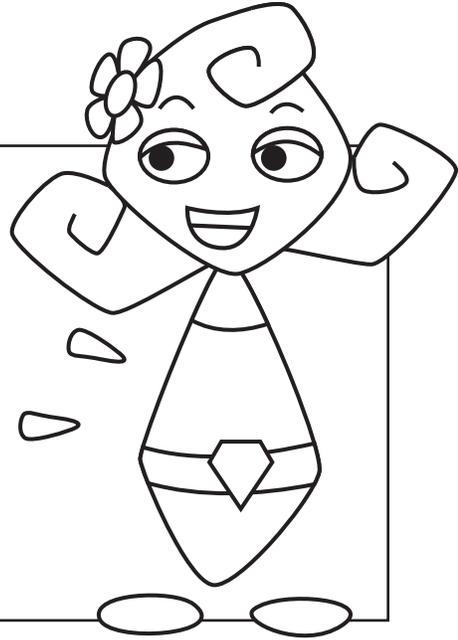


❖ A Very Whirl Christmas ❖

Ruby's Runaway Pageant



The following three pages feature excerpts from the script for Ruby's Runaway Pageant. The full script is about 15 pages and includes extensive descriptions of props, costumes, and stage direction.



Ruby's Runaway Pageant

RUBY enters and stands at the front of the sanctuary holding a microphone and a clipboard.

RUBY: (Speaks in an energetic and slightly smug way) Hello, people! My name is Ruby. Thank you for coming. The pageant you're about see will be like no other pageant you've seen before. My vision was to capture the color, the lights, the mystery, and most importantly, the miraculous birth of Jesus!

(Beat. With gusto.) Let the pageant begin!

Music begins playing.

CAESAR AUGUSTUS enters from the back of the sanctuary down the center aisle doing his very best runway model strut with a serious face. His costume leaves much to be desired. His toga should be some kind of kids graphic bedsheet with recognizable pop culture characters on it or some other kind of sheet that clearly came from a kids bed. His laurel crown is made of dead leaves or perhaps a cheap-looking fast food crown. As CAESAR AUGUSTUS makes his way down the aisle, RUBY introduces him and describes his ensemble.

RUBY: This is Caesar Augustus, who called for the whole world to be registered. Augustus is wearing a classic take on a draped toga with rich accents, which reflect all the glamour of Rome. Completing the look is his laurel crown, handcrafted in 24-karat gold, showcasing his tremendous wealth and power.

In the full script, Ruby narrates a few other outfits on the runway for Mary and Joseph before she brings the show to a screeching halt.

RUBY: STOP! STOP! EVERYONE STOP!

The MUSIC stops.

MARY arrives at the front and pulls up beside RUBY. MARY, JOSEPH, and CAESAR AUGUSTUS are all in a row beside her now.

RUBY: Ada!

ADA, the stage manager, enters wearing a headset and carrying a clipboard.



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ADA: Yes, Ruby?

RUBY: We're stopping.

ADA: Um, we're not supposed to stop. This is the final dress rehearsal.

RUBY: I'm aware of that. I'm also aware that the actual performance is in less than an hour. But we cannot continue under these conditions! I need costume and props out here RIGHT NOW!

ADA ducks back out of sight.

Ruby soon learns that the subaverage props are the result of a limited budget. She tries to tackle the problem with Leo.

RUBY: This is supposed to be the miraculous birth of Jesus, not a walking garage sale! Where is the Script Manager? Leo!

LEO enters holding a thick script print out.

LEO: Here! I'm here!

RUBY gestures at CAESAR AUGUSTUS, JOSEPH, and MARY

RUBY: Leo, are these, in any way, the props and costumes that the script calls for?

LEO glances at his script.

LEO: I . . . I don't believe so.

RUBY: No. The short answer is no. I know this because I wrote the script. And the script I wrote is supposed to be the most spectacular thing people have ever seen!

LEO: But Ruby, the Bible story doesn't—

RUBY: (Interrupting) What Leo, what is it?

LEO: If I may—



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RUBY: (Interrupting again) No you may not. We don't have time!

(To Mimi and Otto) You two have 30 minutes to fix this!

Ruby's patience grows shorter as everyone's performance does not meet her high expectations. But maybe reexamining expectations about the birth of Jesus is just what she needed to do . . .

LEO: Um Ruby, I don't want to add to your headache . . .

RUBY: (Sounding defeated) No, it's fine Leo, pile it on.

LEO: (Timidly referencing his clipboard) I just have a few concerns on accuracy. The, uh, Wise Men, according to the Bible, did not actually visit Jesus until he was a bit older, a minor point. Also, we have [insert number] drummer boys while the script calls for one drummer boy, and the Bible calls for no drummer boys.

RUBY: I can't believe this. Look at this! We can't show this! There's nothing miraculous about it! It's going to just feel like a . . . messy . . . humble . . . regular birth!

LEO: That would, uh, actually be accurate Ruby.

RUBY: What?

LEO: That is exactly how Jesus came into the world. It was a messy, humble, regular old birth.

RUBY: Why would God allow that?

LEO: I think God did it on purpose.

How does Ruby's Runaway Pageant end? Find out by planning A Very Whirl Christmas in your congregation!

