

IT'S A CENSUS

Get Me Out Of Here!

SCRIPT SAMPLE

SCENE THREE

Seth She's a trooper, that Mary.

Abi I know. Talk about an epic journey.

Seth She's in for a surprise when she gets there too.

Abi A surprise?

Seth Yes. It's when something unexpected happens.

Abi I know what a surprise is. Just not what this surprise is.

Seth Oh, right. Well, here's somebody who can fill you in. Please give a warm "It's A Census, Get Me Out Of Here!" welcome to the owner of Bethlehem's first ever boutique Bed and Breakfast, Caleb.

Rapturous applause from the production crew greets the entrance of Caleb, who smiles and waves sheepishly as he moves to Seth and Abi.

Seth Caleb, hello, welcome.

He shakes him by the hand, as does Abi.

Caleb Thanks for having me on.

Seth Not at all, thanks for coming. So . . . what's the surprise that awaits Mary and Joseph when they get to Bethlehem?

Caleb Well, it's not a good surprise, I'm sorry to say. Basically, the town is full. There's barely a room to spare.

Abi Seriously?

Caleb Completely. It's packed. Heaving. I'm already having to turn people away. Not something I like doing.

Abi No, sure. So, what options will Mary and Joseph have when they get there? Surely someone will have some space for them? Or make some space?

Caleb I don't know. I'm sure everyone will do what they can. But there are a lot of people looking for a little space. It'll be first come, first served, if you know what I mean.

Abi Er, yes, it's pretty clear. Well, thank you for coming in.

Caleb You're welcome. And can I just give a huge shout out to all the guests at . . .

Seth cuts him off quickly.

Seth Let's hear it for Caleb.

Warm applause from the crew as Caleb is hustled off camera.

Seth It sounds like things are going to get a little spicey. Let's take a look at the live picture.

Action shifts back to the centre of Bethlehem. People enter, hurrying here, there and everywhere. Some Roman soldiers are doing their best to maintain law and order.

R. Soldier 1 Clear the streets, please. Back to your rooms.

R. Soldier 2 Clear the streets.

R. Soldier 3 I didn't think it would be this busy. Quiet little town, they said.

R. Soldier 4 They say a lot of things.

R. Soldier 5 Yeh, like the time they told me I was on an expedition to somewhere warm and exotic.

R. Soldier 1 Where did you get sent?

R. Soldier 5 Britannia.

R. Soldier 2 Ooh, tough gig.

R. Soldier 3 My last posting was in Rome.

R. Soldier 4 Very nice.

R. Soldier 3 Dangerous though, the way they drive their chariots.

Mary and Joseph enter, along with the 'donkey'.

R. Soldier 1 Clear the streets, please.

Joseph We've just arrived. We're looking for a place to stay.

R. Soldier 2 You and everyone else.

Joseph Do you have any suggestions?

R. Soldier 3 Yeh. Get knocking on doors. You might get lucky.

The soldiers exit, leaving Mary, Joseph and the 'donkey' alone on stage.

Joseph I guess I'd better do as they say. You stay here, Mary. And don't worry, I'll find us somewhere.

Music begins. Joseph starts knocking on doors and receives shakes of the head from the owners.