

SCENE SIX

- Narrator 1** Meanwhile, on the hillside surrounding Bethlehem, shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep.
- Narrator 2** One of them had been thinking of retiring, but had recently changed his mind.
- Narrator 3** He done a yew-turn?
- Narrator 2** Precisely. So they were celebrating with a nice mug of minestrone.
- Narrator 3** The last thing they were expecting was to see a host of angels in the sky.
- Narrator 1** In fact, even one angel would have been a surprise.

Action shifts to the hills above Bethlehem. The shepherds are sat around their campfire, surrounded by their sheep.

- Shepherd 1** Let's stick a few more logs on the fire: it's a cold night tonight.
- Shepherd 2** Beautiful, isn't it? There are more stars in the sky than sheep on the hill, and that's saying something.
- Shepherd 3** (*pointing*) That one in particular, I've never seen one so bright.
- Shepherd 4** It's on the move too. Maybe it's visitors from a different world, finally coming to see us.
- Shepherd 5** Yes, and sheep might fly! Come on, let's get some sleep now they're finally settling.

The shepherds settle themselves and try to get to sleep.

- Sheep 1** I wish they'd put that fire out: I'm roasting.
- Sheep 2** Don't they know how hot we get in these woollen coats?
X 2
- Sheep 3** It's no wonder I can't get to sleep.
- Sheep 4** Try counting humans, it always works.
- Sheep 5** Why is it so bright tonight?

Sheep 6 Look at that shiny thing in the sky. Is it coming nearer?

Sheep 7 Something's definitely coming. It looks like a person. Sort of.

Sheep 8 Should we wake the shepherds? We'd better wake them.

The sheep start baaing loudly as an angel enters, closely followed by a host of angels. The shepherds wake suddenly and look up, fearfully.

Angel 1 Do not be afraid. I bring you great news. A baby has been born for mankind.

Angel 2 He is the light of the world. He lies beneath the star.

Angel 3 In a stable he sleeps, amongst the straw and the animals.

Angel 4 Leave your sheep and come with us.

Shepherd 1 Am I dreaming?

Shepherd 2 We can't all be dreaming.

Shepherd 3 But we can't leave our sheep. We never leave our sheep.

Angel 4 Your sheep will be safe. Come. Do not be afraid.

SHEPHERDS ON THE HILLSIDE

Shepherds on the hillside fast asleep,
You're gonna have to leave your sheep.
Shepherds on the hillside fast asleep,
You're gonna have to leave your sheep.
But don't get cross,
Don't make a fuss.
Leave your sleepy sheepies and come with us.

Shepherds on the hillside, don't delay,
You're gonna be the first to say,
Shepherds on the hillside, don't delay,
You're gonna be the first to say,
The world that was
Has gone because
A tiny little baby has been born from God.

Come into the stable down in Bethlehem.
Come and see the baby down in Bethlehem.
Come into the stable down in Bethlehem.
Come and see the baby down in Bethlehem.

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You're gonna have to leave your sheep.
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