**SCENE: RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST**

MARY

*(Shocked.)*

What do you mean, Bethel? Your husband threw you out? How can this be?

BETHEL

My John has always had a temper; you’ve known this Mary. My hope was that being married may calm him, that his anger might lessen, but in truth things have only gotten worse. I hardly recognize the man I married.

MARY

But to give you a writ of divorce so quickly?

BETHEL

We have been together for but six months, it's true, but that's often the way in-arranged marriages. The writ is not the worst of it. He also has been spreading lies about me; saying I am judgmental and unforgiving, things that simply aren’t true. You may be the only friend who has not walked away from me.

MARY

That would be hard. I can’t imagine the trial that you’ve been through. I’m sorry that you’ve had to bear this. Bethel, where will you go?

BETHEL

I am not certain. I still have my dowry so I’m not so poor as to not find a place to sleep. I will probably be at the inn for a time. Will you visit me there?

MARY

Of course, I’m sorry for the trials you’re going through. Shalom Bethel.

BETHEL

Shalom, Mary.

*BETHEL exits. Attention goes to Mary as she ponders what Bethel has been going through and her own future.*

SONG: RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST

MARY

IT’S A LOT TO THINK ABOUT

AS I TAKE STEPS TO BECOME A WIFE

CONCERNED, BECAUSE

I’VE SEEN MARRIAGES GO SO BAD

I’VE SEEN THE MANY HARDSHIPS

AND UNTOLD SORROW

WHEN MARRIAGES TURN INTO WARS

A SIMPLE WRITTEN STATEMENT BY HIM

AND THE WIFE CAN EASILY BE THRUST

OUT THE DOOR

I’VE ALSO SEEN YEARS OF MENTAL DEVASTATION

JUST TRYING TO HOLD ON

LIVING TOGETHER BUT SO FAR APART

ISOLATED SO VERY ALONE

OUR LIFE IS FAR TOO SHORT

TO NOT REALIZE OUR DREAMS

TO BE UNRECOGNIZED AND UNDERVALUED

NEVER FULLY REALIZING WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

 **SCENE: MARY’S BLESSING**

MARY

Elizabeth dearest cousin, I will be on the road within the week to come and visit with you. *(She hesitates for a moment.)*

SONG: MARY'S BLESSING

I know that I should feel fear at traveling in strange company but as of late I have... felt protected.
THE LAST FEW DAYS I'VE FELT SOMETHING DIFFERENT
THE LAST FEW DAYS I'VE FELT SOMETHING NEW
IT'S AS IF I AM BEING GUIDED
IT'S AS IF I AM BEING VIEWED

ANGEL

HAIL THOU ART HIGHLY FAVORED

THE LORD IS WITH THEE

BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN

FOR A LIFE CHANGE THAT IS TO BE

FOR YOUR LIFE CHANGE THAT IS TO BE

MARY

*(In awe)*

Sir am I to fear thee? You bring strange solicitations. I'm not sure I can comprehend.

ANGEL

Mary, fear not. God has a special blessing for you. You will be blessed in this time and bring forth a son called Jesus. He will be the son of the Highest. He shall rule over the house of David. His kingdom will know no end.

MARY

How can this be? I've never known a man.

ANGEL

God will provide. The Holy Ghost shall overshadow thee, and thy future son, the Son of God, shall be conceived in purity.

MARY

Why me?
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED A SIMPLE LIFE
SIMPLE LEARNING BY MOST ACCOUNTS
WHY WOULD I BE NOTICED BY GOD
LET ALONE THIS BLESSING SO PARAMOUNT
IS IT POSSIBLE I CAN DO THIS
I AM NOT THAT OLD STILL IN MY YOUTH
ANGEL PLEASE SOME COMFORT I SEEK

ANGEL

THEN COMFORT I CAN GIVE TO YOU.
YOU HAVE SHOWN YOUR LOVE TO GOD
BY YOUR ACTIONS ALL YOU’RE LIFE
YOU ARE WORTHY IN EVERY WAY
FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING THIS NIGHT
MARY HAVE FAITH
FOR YOU ARE THE CHOSEN HANDMAIDEN OF THE LORD

MARY

ANGEL, I LOVE MY GOD
I WILL BE THE HANDMAIDEN
BE IT ACCORDING TO THY WORD

SCENE: THE CONFRONTATION

 SONG: THE CONFRONTATION

MARY

I NOW REALIZE THAT EVERYTHING
HAS TO REST WITH ME
I MUST DEVELOP MY OWN STRENGTH
FOR CONSEQUENCES YET TO BE
WHILE WITH ELIZABETH I FELT COMFORTED
I FELT ALMOST AT HOME
NOW WITH EVERY STEP I FEEL VULNERABLE
SO VERY, VERY ALONE

I FACE THE UNKNOWN
EACH STEP WITH THOUGHTS OF FEARS
AND JOYS OF HOW MY LIFE WILL UNFOLD
WILL I BE LOVED OR BE THE UNWANTED TRAITOR
WILL JOSEPH HATE OR LOVE ME

JOSEPH

MARY LOOKS DIFFERENT...
HER GARMENT IT'S...
IT'S PRESSING TO TIGHT
SOMETHING HAS CHANGED
SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT
OH, NO. COULD SHE BE...
WAIT, SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT

*JOSEPH approaches MARY who is ready to tell him everything but is interrupted by him.*

MARY SAY SOMETHING

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
SAY SOMETHING PLEASE
ABOUT WHAT I THINK I VIEW
SAY SOMETHING MARY
OH MARY
IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BEEN UNTRUE

MARY

Joseph, I realize you need an explanation. Yes, I am with child, but-

Joseph! I've been with no man.
I WOULD NEVER VIOLATE OUR TRUST

 *(Pleading)*
It's not what you think!
I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH A CALLING
FROM A GOD MERCIFUL AND JUST
GOD HAS ASKED ME TO BE A SPECIAL MOTHER
THIS GOES BEYOND JUST US
IT'S ABOUT HELPING OTHERS
Joseph I can't change what you see, but please look into my eyes.
YOU'VE ALWAYS TRUSTED IN ME

JOSEPH

This isn't about trust! This is about everything that we've planned and you... you've ended it all in one move. Now you try to justify?

SCENE: JOSEPHS SORROW

SONG: JOSEPH'S SORROW

JOSEPH

MARY, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
WHAT AM I TO SAY WHAT AM I TO DO
THIS PAIN AND ANGER I’M FEELING
MARY I LOVED...
I TRUSTED YOU

I HAVE MY FAMILY I MUST TELL

I’LL ALWAYS REEL FROM HER DISGRACE

SHE’S PLACED A POX UPON MY NAME

I CAN’T ERASE

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW

SHE’LL BE REQUIRED TO REPORT

BEFORE THE HIGH PRIESTS

A DEFENDANT IN THEIR COURT

QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED

HER ANSWERS WILL SEAL HER FATE

THE FINAL JUDGMENT RENDERED

FOR MARY IT MAY BE TOO LATE

HOW CAN I POSSIBLY BELIEVE

WHAT SHE HAS JUST RELATED TO ME

TO INVOLVE GOD IN HER STORY

SPEAKS OF BLASPHEMY

HOW CAN I DISPROVE

THERE’S NOT ANOTHER PERSON TO BLAME

IT’S HER WORD OR NOTHING ELSE

SHE STANDS ALONE IN HER SHAME

 SCENE: MARY’S REALIZATION

SONG: MARY'S REALIZATION

OH NO I HAVE LOST HIM

AS HE WALKS AWAY
WHAT I DID OR SAID

DID NOT CONVINCE JOSEPH TO STAY

MY HEART’S WORDS

I THOUGHT SO CAREFULLY REHEARSED

JUST TO FAIL IN THEIR UTTERANCE

I NOW FEEL SO MUCH WORSE

*BETHEL returns onto the stage with another woman, they walk behind MARY and point at her.*

WOMAN

DO YOU SEE MARY WHAT A JEZEBEL

BETHEL

PROBABLY THREE MONTHS DO YOU CONCUR

WOMAN

SHE'S OUT OF WEDLOCK
LET'S BE THE FIRST TO SPREAD THE WORD

BETHEL

SHE'S CHOSEN HER FUTURE

BOTH

WHO CARES IF HER NAME IS SMEARED

MARY

 Bethel?

OH, MY WORD
OH, MY SOUL
HOW CRUEL
Don't you realize I can hear?

*The two women giggle as they leave MARY alone, they go to a PRIEST who has entered away from MARY and speak silently with him.*

CHANGING SO QUICKLY
MY FRIENDS I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST
NOW THROUGH NEW ACTIONS
REVEAL SUCH FEELINGS OF DISGUST
THEY’VE THRUST ON ME THE LABEL
THAT I HAVE SURELY BEEN UNTRUE
I'M CLASSIFIED AS DIRTY
THEIR TIME WITH ME IS THROUGH

NO ONE STEPS FORWARD TO HELP
NO KINDNESS NO SYMPATHY
HOW CAN I CARRY ON
AND DO WHAT WAS ASKED OF ME TO DO
HOW CAN I BE BLESSED BUT LOSE MY SOUL MATE
OH JOSEPH, I STILL NEED YOU

 SCENE: JOSEPH’S DREAM

SONG: JOSEPH'S DREAM

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JOSEPH

THIS DAY HAS CHANGED MY LIFE SO MUCH

MY WORLD IS SO MUCH DARKER NOW

I’M TRYING TO FIND REASON

TO UNDERSTAND THIS TRIAL SOMEHOW

*He climbs up onto his bed; his eyes are heavy as his head begins to hit the pillow. JOSEPH falls asleep. As the music changes the walls of his room seem to dissolve away leaving him on his bed in darkness. A clap of thunder sounds and JOSEPH awakens to see DEMONS circling his bed.*

JOSEPH

DEMONS WHERE DID YOU COME FROM
DEMONS LEAVE GET OUT OF HERE
DEMONS BE GONE

YOU FILL ME WITH FEAR

DEMON

SINCE OUR DISCUSSION'S GOING SO WELL
WE'LL TAKE IT JUST ONE FURTHER STEP
COME ON NOW JOSEPH LET US HELP YOU
YOU KNOW IT'S JUST A LITTLE TRIP

DEMON

JOSEPH DON'T QUESTION COME AND JOIN US
WE HAVE A CHORE FOR YOU TO DO

*The scene moves to in front of MARY’S family’s home.*

*The DEMONS have something now behind their backs that starts to glow red.*

ALL DEMONS

OH JOSEPH OUR INTENTIONS
WILL BE CLEAR ONCE SHE'S OUTSIDE
WE'LL TALK TO HER REALLY TALK TO HER
AND SEE IF SHE'S ALL RIGHT

*The DEMONS start to show their glowing objects to each other, they are rocks.* DEMON

JOSEPH DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THESE ROCKS HERE
WE'LL HIDE THEM RIGHT BEHIND OUR BACKS
THEY HAVE A CLEANSING PURPOSE
YOU'LL REALIZE THAT WHEN WE ATTACK

DEMON

JOSEPH TAKE THIS WHEN SHE COMES OUT
BE SURE TO TAKE ESPECIAL AIM

DEMON

BELIEVE ME YOU'LL FEEL SO MUCH BETTER
ONCE YOU'VE ERASED HER DIRTY STAIN

JOSEPH

ARE YOU CRAZY
HAVE YOU NO MERCY
HAVE YOU EVEN ONE BIT OF SHAME
WHAT YOU ASK IS THE UTMOST CRUELTY
WHAT YOU ASK IS SO INSANE

 **SCENE: THE JOURNEY**

MARY

Joseph, Joseph!
WE HAVE TO FIND SOME PLACE NOW!
THE BABY IS PUSHING
FIND A PLACE RIGHT NOW

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS
IT DOESN'T MATTER THE SIZE OR SHAPE
HURRY, QUICKLY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

*They go to a couple of different doors, are greeted by owners, and get rejected each time. They arrive at the last Inn. JOSEPH knocks at the door and the INNKEEPER and his WIFE enter.*

JOSEPH

Please, can you help us?
WE ARE DESPERATE
WE ARE STRANGERS

INNKEEPER

Please go I have no room

*The INNKEEPER makes to leave; his WIFE puts a hand on him to stop him as she notices MARY'S state.*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE

Oh, my!
Quickly, let’s use the manger.

*She sends her husband back inside as she helps MARY.*

JOSEPH

Please! My wife is great with child.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE

I see her condition

JOSEPH

We've traveled so far from our home.

INNKEEPER'S WIFE

At least there we can be alone

*They arrive at the manger. The INNKEEPER comes in with linens.*

JOSEPH

*(sighs)*

You are most kind,
SHALOM.

*The INNKEEPER'S WIFE leads MARY to the stable and lays her down.*

Mary, I'm sorry
THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO

 **SCENE: THE ESCAPE**

 *MARY is in a home holding the baby Jesus when a knock comes at her door.*

BETHEL

Hello, Mary.

MARY

Bethel, what are you doing here so far from home.

BETHEL

I don’t know exactly, I woke up some time ago with a feeling I could not deny. I needed to come and see. Is this Him?

MARY

Yes.

BETHEL

May I?

MARY

It has been more than a year, you know. Since last we spoke. Many months after you turned your back on me publicly, ridiculing me in the public square. Why are you here?

BETHEL

I wanted to see Him, to see your Jesus.

MARY

To be like others who mock and scorn us? I, I can’t see you! We were friends and now seeing you fills me with painful memories. No thank you, Bethel. Take your leave.

BETHEL

Mary, please. I have traveled so far for so long to see Him, and….I don’t know why, but Mary, I need to look upon Him. I have searched my whole life for something in which to believe. Don’t deny me this one privilege, please. Mary after so many steps this may be a first step for me to a new understanding.

MARY

...Here.

 *BETHEL holds the baby Jesus and just stares at him while holding him. She hands the baby back to MARY.*

BETHEL

Thank you Mary.

*MARY does not say anything as BETHEL leaves. Bethel is left outside to her own thoughts and what she has just experienced.*

 ***SONG: HE HELD ME IN HIS HANDS***

BETHEL

 WHEN I HELD THE BABY JESUS

 SUDDENLY I REALIZED

 THE LIFE I’VE BEEN LIVING

 THE DECEIPT, RUMORS AND LIES

 PAIN I HAD SELFISHLY INFLICTED

 AFFECTING OTHER PEOPLES LIVES

 BUT IN THAT MOMENT MY LIFE CHANGED

 SUDDENLY I BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND

 AS I HELD THE BABY JESUS IN MY ARMS

 IT WAS AS IF HE HELD ME IN HIS HANDS

 **SCENE: THE ESCAPE**

MARY

Joseph, I’m slowing us down. Take our baby and escape, leave me now for our child’s sake.

JOSEPH

*(hesitating)*

Mary, I... I can't.

JOSEPH

Mary I can stand and fight and try to delay so you both can escape.

MARY

No, even if we temporarily managed to get away your actions would alert them and they would know of our baby. Remember, I will meet you at the place. Oh please God, just one more miracle from above.

Go with God’s speed, run quickly to safety

My two loves.

SOLDIER 1

Well, what have we here? So strange, a woman as beautiful as you journeying alone, and so early, is it not?

MARY

My journey started early so I could get out of the city

before the day gets too hot.

SOLDIER 2

Give me your bag; I’ve found no sign of an infant. Her clothing is all I’ve found Would you like to inspect further.

SOLDIER 1

No, I have this feeling we should release her, let her flee.

 ***SONG:* JUST ONE ROMAN SOLDIER**

SOLDIER 1

 FINALLY THIS NIGHT IS ENDING

MY HEART ACHES FROM WHAT WE’VE DONE

HOW CAN I RECONCILE THIS BLOODSHED

THE HAVOC HAILED ON EVERYONE

I AM A SOLDIER MY JOB IS FIGHTING

OTHER SOLDIERS IN EVERY WAY MY EQUAL

NOT TO TAKE YOUNG INNOCENT LIVES

DEFENSELESS, SO SMALL, SO FEEBLE

I AM JUST ONE ROMAN SOLDIER

AND I WAS ORDERED TO DO MY PART

TONIGHTS ACTIONS FOREVER WITH ME

ENSLAVING MY MIND MY SOUL MY HEART