

AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS
An Easter Play

c. Mike Fedel, 2007-2008

The basic premise is a songwriter working on an Easter song about Jesus' "Guys" hanging tough at the foot of the cross. His teenage daughter corrects him.

PERSONS

Dave - a songwriter

John - another musician

Connie - Dave's wife Leigh - Dave's daughter

Scene opens with 2 musicians working out a song. Other players are offstage.

The actors do not have to BE musicians, they can simply read the lyrics in a sing-song, giving the general idea. If music, this could be inserted into a service somewhere music would normally happen, and the turn to the play as a surprise.

Dave: OK, let's do this in D.

John: I'll just follow you.

One round of 12 bar or maybe just an intro.

angels flying around playing their harps and all.

John: [chuckle] Well, it was in the Charlie Brown special year after year...

Connie: Remember, Linus reads the whole thing about the "shepherds keeping watch over their sheep at night..."

Dave: I know, but I didn't know they actually got down to the stable. You know, I thought it was...like...a concert or something.

Connie: Well, at least we got that one straightened around before you two performed it.

John: I'll say. That would have been kind of hard to explain, especially with you leading one of the Christmas Story discussion groups.

Chuckles. Connie gets up to leave.

Connie: You've got about two more hours before Leigh's bedtime. Remember you said you'd help her study for tomorrow's big geography test.

Dave: Right, right. We'll, we're getting close to finished. I have the basic...

Leigh walks in, papers crumpled in hand, obviously distraught.

Leigh: Dad. Help! I just found out that Germany only has one capital city! You always told me it had two!

John: Dave, reunification was over 20 years ago! I know you're a musician and all, but you have to try and keep up...

Dave: OK, honey, I promise we'll sit down together and look over the maps as soon as John and I get a little farther on this song.

Leigh: What song?

Dave: It's for Easter, want to hear it?

Leigh: [rolls her eyes] Just the words, OK? It'll go faster.

Connie and John chuckle. Dave is a little nonplussed, but grins.

Dave: OK, here we go. "It's lonely here / At the foot of the cross" Then that repeats, then "I've stood by and watched faithfully / While you fulfilled your destiny"... etc. What do you think?

Leigh: So, you're going to have one of the [girls/women] sing it?

Stunned looks all around.

Dave: Well, no. I thought I'd sing it. You know, I could be Peter or John or one of His Guys.

Leigh: Dad, I have sort of a news flash for you. None of His [finger quotes] Guys were at the foot of the cross. They were all off somewhere, I think it says 'hiding in an upstairs room'.

John and Connie dimly recall this, Dave is taken totally by surprise.

Dave: Well, that can't be right.

Dave turns to Connie and John, but they are non-committal, shake heads and shrug shoulders.

Dave: Come on, these were tough guys. They used to be fisherman and carpenters and craftsmen and that kind of thing...

Leigh: Well, yeah, but they were scared and ran and hid.

Dave: [pauses, regrouping] OK, so then Jesus was alone? There was nobody there? I guess I

could change it around a little...[*noodle on the instrument*] ..."it's lonely here...nobody at the foot of the cross..."

Dave notices that Leigh is shaking her head.

Dave: [bemused, not impatient] What?

Leigh: He wasn't exactly alone. A bunch of his women followers were there.

Dave looks again to the other two for support. Connie is checking her nails, John tunes his guitar.

Dave: [a pause] OK then, I'll write something about when he first appeared to His Guys after he rose. You know, on the [slowing] road to Emmaus...[ends his sentence slower than he began it, seeing his daughter's head shaking]

Leigh is shaking her head.

Leigh: The first people he appears to are...

Dave: [interrupts her] Let me guess - women?

Leigh: [nodding] Mark 15:40 dad - look it up! "Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there."

Connie puts her hand up to hide a chuckle. Gets up and leaves the room to get her props for later: a Bible and a map/atlas.

Dave: Oh well, there goes another great idea!

Dave stands up and - in exaggerated movements to indicate he is amused, not frustrated - tears up his lyric sheet and throws it up in the air.

Leigh: Dad, cheer up. I mean, he did eventually appear to His Guys after he talked with the women. It's not like he ignored them just because they all ran away and hid when he really needed them.

John chokes on the drink he was sipping, puts his cup down.

John: Wow - sounds like you've got some serious rewriting to do. You know, of that one verse.

Connie walks back into the room, hands the Bible to Leigh. John stands up, packs his gear or papers.

Dave: [laughs] Sounds like I do.

Gives John a hug, John walks offstage.

Leigh: [dramatically?] And here's some research material for you. In here [hands him the Bible] you'll find the whole story - women and all.

Connie: And in here [hands him the map] you'll find a map of Germany.

Dave puts his arm around Leigh and all three exit the stage.

THE END