

Another Way Home

By Alan Young



ACT 1

- RACHEL: *(In disbelief)* Where have you been?
- JACOB: You know where I've been...
- RACHEL: What... all this time?
- JACOB: The King had a lot on his mind....
- RACHEL: Obviously....
- JACOB: What did you expect me to do? Just get up and leave the Temple....
- RACHEL: I was getting worried...
- JACOB: There was nothing I could do...
- RACHEL: I thought something might have happened...
- JACOB: Something is about to...
- RACHEL: What do you mean by that?
- JACOB: The King of the Jews is about to be born....
- RACHEL: The King of the Jews?... Do you know what you are saying?
- JACOB: Of course I do....
- RACHEL: Have you been drinking, Jacob?
- JACOB: Of course not...
- RACHEL: So how do you know this?
- JACOB: The prophet Micah has written, "You, Bethlehem are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel".
- RACHEL: And this is going to happen here?...in Bethlehem?
- (Jacob nods)*
- RACHEL: But why? We already have a King....
- JACOB: I know...

RACHEL: We don't need another.....And what will happen to King Herod?

JACOB: I'm not sure....

RACHEL: He must be very concerned....

JACOB: I told you he had a lot on his mind.....

RACHEL: How can a child be the King of the Jews? We will all have to wait until he grows up...

JACOB: It would be like having a child as the King...

RACHEL: That reminds me, Simone has come here a few times...

JACOB: (*Sounding a little irritated*) Oh really? Did you tell her where I was?

(*Rachel nods*)

RACHEL: I tried to explain to her that some meetings can last.....

(*Simon enters*)

SIMONE: There you are!!

JACOB: Hello Simone...

SIMONE: When did you get back?

JACOB: I've just arrived...

SIMONE: That meeting must have lasted hours and hours!!

JACOB: It did go on for a long time...

SIMONE: How boring!!

JACOB: It depends on what you are discussing....

SIMONE: Was it something exciting?

JACOB: You know I can't tell you, Simone

SIMONE: I know, I know...all hush hush!

RACHEL: Simone do you like the King?

(*Jacob looks at Rachel*)

SIMONE: I don't know....I've never met him....

RACHEL: I have...I wish I hadn't...

SIMONE: Why do you ask?

RACHEL: I was just wondering...

JACOB: So was I....

SIMONE: Were you?

JACOB: Wondering what I had to eat....

RACHEL: I take it from that you're hungry....

SIMONE: I better go then.... Bye....

(Simone leaves)

JACOB: Why did you ask Simone that question? You know I can't tell him anything....

RACHEL: I wanted to know what he thought of the King...

JACOB: Now you know...

RACHEL: Yes, but what I don't know is what the King is going to do now...

JACOB: He wants to find out exactly where the child will be born.

RACHEL: He sees him as a threat, doesn't he? A threat to his position and to his power.

JACOB: That shouldn't surprise you, Rachel.

RACHEL: I am going to pray for the child...

JACOB: Pray? Why will you do that?

RACHEL: Because if King Herod finds him, we know what he will do....don't we, Jacob?

ACT 2

(The Wise Men are seated - Herod enters – the Wise Men stand up)

HEROD: Don't get up..... do sit down....

1ST KING: Thank you, your Majesty...

HEROD: I have been looking forward to meeting all of you...

2ND KING: It is a privilege for us to meet you, your Majesty...

HEROD: How long have you been travelling?

3RD KING: For many days, your Majesty....

HEROD: Really? And what made you leave your home?

1ST KING: We saw an unusual star in the sky...

HEROD: They all look the same to me...

1ST KING: Allow me to explain, your Majesty...We study the stars, very closely. How they are formed, how different they are in size, how they make patterns in the sky....

HEROD: So what was unusual about this one?

2ND KING: It was much, much brighter than all the others...

3RD KING: And it was more than a star...

HEROD: More than a star? What do you mean by that?

3RD KING: It was a sign....

HEROD: A sign? Of what?

3RD KING: Of the birth of a special king...

HEROD: What makes you so sure?

2ND KING: We also study the Holy Scriptures too, and we knew that we would be given a sign of His birth...

HEROD: Do you all believe this?

(The Three Wise Men nod)

HEROD: And this....child? Is he really going to be the King of the Jews?

(The Three Wise Men nod again)

HEROD: Then, I must go and worship him, too...

1ST KING: Did you want to come with us?

HEROD: *(Hesitates)* I would like to but I don't think I can...I have too many responsibilities here....

1ST KING: We understand...

HEROD: What you could do though is when you find the child, come back and tell me where he is, and I will go and worship him.

1ST KING: Of course...

HEROD: My chief priests and teachers told me about this birth and now you have confirmed this is going to happen.

2ND KING: We hope you are as excited as we are...

(Herod smiles falsely)

HEROD: I am....but I can't help thinking what will happen to me?

2ND KING: Your Majesty, God knows what is best for all of us...If you ask him, I am sure he will answer your prayer....

3RD KING: It is down to trust *(pause)*....trust in God's will....

1ST KING: We have put our trust in that star... we believe it will lead us to the place where the child is...

HEROD: Then I don't want to keep you any longer...

1ST KING: Thank you, your Majesty....

HEROD: The sooner you find him, the sooner you come back and tell me where he is....

(The Three Wise Men bow and leave)

HEROD: Do they really think I am going to worship him? Do they really think I am going to give up everything I have?
(shakes his head) There can be only one King.....and that is me. I will make sure of that!

ACT 3

1ST KING: Did you sleep well?

2ND KING: I did....eventually....

1ST KING: Eventually?...Oh, I see what you mean...

2ND KING: Don't tell me you went straight off to sleep...

1ST KING: No, of course not...I can't remember the last time that happened....when something has kept me awake for so long

2ND KING: But don't forget what kept us awake...

1ST KING: How could I?

2ND KING: We came to worship Jesus and that is what we did...

1ST KING: We received the sign from heaven and that star led us to the place where he was born...

(3rd King joins them)

3RD KING: It was unforgettable....

2ND KING: Ah, he's awake....

3RD KING: I think I've been awake most of the night....

2ND KING: Now you know how we feel....

3RD KING: I did get some sleep..

1ST KING: But I've been thinking how his parents must feel...do they really know who their son will grow up to be?

2ND KING: They must have some idea....not every new born baby is given gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh....

3RD KING: We should have asked them...

1ST KING: One day they will know that God chose them to be the parents of Jesus...

3RD KING: That should make them feel very special...

1ST KING: But shouldn't the three of us also feel special?....

2ND KING: In what way?

1ST KING: We were chosen, too, to go and worship Jesus..

3RD KING: That's true..

1ST KING: I mean, it could have been anyone...

2ND KING: And the star shone only for us....

3RD KING: It would have been seen by many, though, but it shone for us in a special way....

1ST KING: And I was thinking how close his parents must be to God, but then surely the three of us must be close to God, too....

2ND KING: I wonder if we will ever see his parents again?...:

3RD KING: I wonder if will ever see Jesus again?

2ND KING: And if we do, will he know who we are?

1ST KING: Of course He will.... God knows us better than we know ourselves...

3RD KING: But how many more people will want to worship him?

2ND KING: King Herod will....he's told us so...

(1st King look away)

2ND KING: What's the matter with you?

1ST KING: I was told something different....

2ND KING: Were you?

1ST KING: I was told not to go back to him...

3RD KING: So was I....

1ST KING: Did you have the same dream then?

3RD KING: (*3rd King nods*) But it seemed so real.... it was as though an angel had woken me up to tell me....

1ST KING: It was the same for me, too?

3RD KING: (Looking at the 2nd King) So how come we had the same dream and you didn't?

2ND KING: Did I say I didn't?.....

(All the Kings smile at each other)

1ST KING: That's agreed then, we don't go back to King Herod....

2ND KING: We need to find a different way back.....

3RD KING: Perhaps we could ask someone...

1ST KING: Let's ask God...I'm sure he will show us another way home...