

SCENE 3

SCHOOL LUNCHROOM

(KIDS are eating lunch and chattering)

IVY

Alice, I heard Beth's mom is directing the pageant. Has she ever directed a play?

ALICE

No, but Mother said we don't have to worry – Mrs. Armstrong will be giving Mrs. Bradley orders from the hospital.

IVY

Mrs. Bradley knows you always play Mary, right?

ALICE

I'm sure Mrs. Armstrong will tell her. Oh, there she is.

(BETH enters)

ALICE

Beth! Come sit by me and Ivy.

BETH

Did you hear? Mrs. Armstrong is in the hospital.

IVY

It's all over school.

ALICE

I'm so excited your mom's going to direct. Now you can be the leader of the angel choir, which is perfect for you!

BETH

You really think so? I can barely read music.

ALICE

But you just look so angelic. And besides, as Mary, I like to know I have someone I can count on to lead the younger angels in and out and tell them to be quiet when I'm onstage with Baby Jesus.

IVY

It's the shepherds you have to worry about. They're always whamming each other with their canes.

ALICE

That's true, Ivy, but don't you think Beth should play the lead angel?

For perusal purposes only.

IVY

Of course, Alice!

BETH

Don't worry, Alice. I don't want to play Mary.

ALICE

Beth! I didn't even think—

BETH

You have to play Mary. You're smart, and neat, and well, so holy-looking.

ALICE

(feigning modesty)

I'm not really. But if you really believe that...

IVY & BETH

You're perfect!

TRACK 10

#3B HERDMAN ENTRANCE

(ELMER rushes in, then runs to join CHARLIE)

ELMER

The Herdmans are coming!

ALL KIDS

(panicked whisper)

The Herdmans!

IVY

(to her friends)

Quick, eat your dessert.

(the HERDMANS appear and pose in the doorway of the cafeteria, punctuated by cymbal crash)

RALPH

Well lookee here.

(as each HERDMAN kid identifies a food item, the good KIDS clutch the item to their chests or try to eat it fast)

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