Constellation Street

By Rachel Gotobed

*‘A suspected new star has been spotted in the sky but not all the residents of Constellation Street have seen it yet. An extraordinary meeting of the Galactic Watch is called, and its members agree to stake out overnight to see the new star. Once they have all seen it, they are amazed by its brightness and begin worrying about its significance. However, God sends Angel Gabriel to remind them that they were all created to shine for his glory and that all of them are needed to shine their brightest for the birth of the Christ Child, the everlasting light.’*

## Characters

Orion (O) – The Hunter

Andromeda (A) – Princess

Ursa Major (Uma) – Great Bear

Ursa Minor (Umi) – Small Bear

Chamaeleon (C) – Lizard

Lyn (L) – Lynx

Beth (B) – Bethlehem

Angel Gabriel (AG)

Nativity Scene (Non-speaking parts)

#### Notes:

* *You could use some theme music of your choosing at the beginning and end of each scene if required.*
* *Scene 3 can be omitted if you need to present a shorter version.*

## Scene 1

*Theme tune plays. Orion and Andromeda enter from opposite sides.*

O Ahh, there you are, Andromeda – I’ve been looking for you all morning!

A Sorry, Orion – I had a few errands to run. What seems to be the problem?

O Who mentioned anything about a problem?

A Well, no one yet. However, you only tend to come looking for me when there is one!

O Hmm! Well, yes, actually now you come to mention it, there is something I would like to

talk to you about.

A Fire away then.

O I may be a hunter, but I am not a shooting star, so I won’t be firing anything! However, I just wondered if you’ve seen it?

A Seen what?

O The new star!

A A new star? Here on Constellation Street?

O Yes – it appeared last night – shining extremely brightly. I’m amazed everyone didn’t notice it!

A Last night, you say? I was out all night, but the heavens didn’t seem any different from my view. Are you sure it wasn’t just a meteor? Or Cam doing his colour-changing trick?

O I am quite certain it wasn’t either of those things! It was a new star, shining in the east and looking its brightest at dawn.

A Brightest at dawn? That’s a bit odd! Are you sure it wasn’t just the sun coming up?

O Andromeda, I am one of the oldest stars in the universe. I think after all these centuries I know the difference between the sun rising and a new star! I know what I saw, and it was most definitely a new star.

A So what do you want to do about it?

O I don’t want to do anything, but I’d like you to call an extraordinary meeting of the Galactic Watch so that we can warn the whole of Constellation Street to be on the lookout for a possible intruder.

A You don’t think it’s a rogue star or an alien, do you?

O At this point, I don’t know what it is, or where it has come from. All I know is that it was shining most brightly as the rest of us were fading into the daylight, and that seems somewhat odd to me. And therefore, we need to make the others aware.

A OK. I will send a star message to the Constellation Street Galactic Watch inviting them to an extraordinary meeting at dusk this evening – is that OK?

O Perfect! Here’s hoping together we can shine some light on this situation.

*Theme tune plays – all exit.*

## Scene 2

*Theme tune plays. Enter Andromeda, Ursa Major (Uma), Ursa Minor (Umi), Chamaeleon (Cam) and Lynx (Lyn). They take seats at the table and start whispering to one another. Andromeda looks at their watch and shakes their head.*

*Orion enters all flustered.*

A There you are, Orion – I was beginning to worry that I’d dreamt our conversation and that this extraordinary meeting was an extracurricular extravagance that I had extrapolated!

O Now, now, Andromeda, there’s no need to use so many ex-pletives in one sentence. I’m not that late! I’m afraid I spent so much time this morning researching this new star that I didn’t get to sleep until lunch – and then was startled when my astral alarm went off.

Uma New star? What new star? I haven’t seen anything!

A We don’t know yet if there is a new star or not – that is why we have called this Extraordinary Meeting of the Constellation Street Galactic Watch. And now that Orion is here, we can get the proceedings formally under way.

 So then, for the purpose of the minutes – which I am recording on my new solar voice recorder – please can everyone present state their name and constellation.

Uma Uma, Ursa Major, the Great Bear.

Umi Umi, Ursa Minor, the Small Bear.

Cam Cam, Chamaeleon, the Lizard.

L Lyn, the Lynx Supercluster.

O Orion, the Hunter – Chair of the Constellation Street Galactic Watch.

A Andromeda, the Princess – Secretary of the Constellation Street Galactic Watch. Now Orion, please can you inform our star-board why you have called this extraordinary meeting.

O Last night I saw a new star, which very strangely appeared to be brightest at dawn - and no, before you ask, it definitely wasn’t the sun! Having reported what I saw to Andromeda and asked her to call this meeting, I spent some time this morning on the universal web trying to find if there had been a star announcement, but I couldn’t see anything. So, I am asking if tonight you will all keep watch with me to see if you notice anything untoward happening.

Umi A new star, you say? Well, I read today’s *Starlight Express* and there was no mention of anything.

Cam And you know that I always keep an eye on the changing scene according to *StarChat*, and I’m sure I would have noticed if a new star had been mentioned there.

Lyn As I am a star named because only those with the eyesight of a Lynx can see me, I think your peripheral vision may need testing, Orion!

O You can say what you like, but I know what I saw. And what concerns me is that it’s like the heavens are keeping a secret, and that unnerves me.

Uma So where did you think you saw this star, Orion?

O The star I saw was in the East. I didn’t notice it until way into the night, and as I said, it seemed to shine more brightly at dawn.

A OK everyone. We do need to take this possible star sighting seriously, as we know that it is our responsibility to keep watch for any rogue stars or aliens in order to protect the Earth. Therefore, I suggest that tonight we are all extra vigilant and that we meet here again just after sunrise to report back – is that OK?

*Stars all say ‘Yes’ and nod in agreement*

AMotion carried. Extraordinary meeting adjourned.

*Stars begin to exit*

O And don’t forget to be discreet about your observations – the last thing we want is rumours of Star Wars!

*Theme tune plays – all exit*

## Scene 3

*Theme tune plays. Enter Uma, Umi and Cam – all carrying cups.*

Uma At last some cloud cover – thank your lucky stars!

Umi You know there’s nothing lucky about it, Uma. The Creator knows we need a little break now and then, so sends the clouds to hide us.

Cam Indeed he does. And now that Starpurks do a delivery service we can all get a brewtiful cuppa!

*Stars all raise their cups and laugh!*

Uma So, has anyone spotted this new star Orion’s banging on about?

Cam Not me – but you know what old Orion’s like – stars in his eyes, that one!

Umi Be fair, Cam – he does have thousands of years’ experience at this, and I don’t think I can ever remember his celestial radar getting it wrong before.

Uma Umi’s right. Orion’s witnessed every eclipse, every cosmic collision and moon shower there’s ever been, so I think we definitely need to keep watch. I think it’s quite exciting though – a bit like a star stake-out!

*Lyn enters also carrying a cup*

Cam There you are, Lyn – we wondered where you’d got to.

Lyn I had to wait a bit longer for the cloud cover to come my way – you know what they’re like – here one minute and gone the next!

Cam That reminds me – did any of you see that item on the news about how in the future humans will store things in clouds?

Umi As if that’s ever going to happen! Clouds aren’t secure storage space, and they leak!

Cam That’s what I thought – but you know what the humans are like – always reaching for the stars.

*Stars laugh, raise their arms and sing, ‘Reach for the stars!’*

Uma They’re not so bright, are they, those humans? And yet God created them in his image and loves them very much. I mean, what other creature thinks they can look at Aries or Leo to determine their future? As if we know anything about the plans of the Almighty!

Umi Very true, Uma – not bright at all! Why in the heavens would you look to us, when you can be guided by the One who created the whole universe? It’s beyond me.

*Stars all shake their heads in disbelief*

Lyn Talking of looking at the stars, have any of you seen this new star yet?

Uma Not me! I’ve ploughed my way through the galaxy and not seen anything untoward.

Cam I’ve used all my colour-changing powers to discreetly investigate the heavens, but nothing either.

Umi What about you, Lyn? You’re a faint constellation yourself – have you managed to find it?

Lyn Orion didn’t say it was faint – he said it was brightest at dawn. So there’s still chance for us to see it – but we won’t if we stay behind the clouds all night!

Uma You’re right, Lyn – cloud-breaks don’t last for ever – and as it’s often the darkest before the dawn we need to keep watch then.

Umi Well, I’ve finished my quasar double-shot espresso, so I’m wide awake and ready for dazzling. I’ll see you again at the Galactic Watch meeting. *(Umi begins to exit)*

Cam Wait up there, Umi – the clouds are parting, so it’s time for us all to get back to our constellations. Let’s hope we spot something, or else Orion’s not going to be a happy hunter in the cold light of day!

Lyn He’ll be fine – eventually. And you know what Andromeda always sings to him when he’s stressing …

All sing ‘Don’t worry about a thing, ’cos every little thing’s gonna be all bright!’

*Theme tune plays – all exit*

## Scene 4

*Theme tune plays – all stars enter and take seats at the table talking loudly among themselves.*

A Order, everyone, please! We need to get this meeting started as I’m aware there is much to report. I’ve set the solar recorder going already, so will hand straight over to Orion.

O Thank you, Andromeda. It would appear then, from what I am hearing in your conversations, that I didn’t have stardust in my eyes after all, and that you have all now seen this new star too – is that correct?

*Stars all nod enthusiastically*

Uma Yes, I definitely saw it – and just as you said, it was in the east and shone extremely brightly just before the dawn.

Umi I saw it too – it was stellar!

Lyn Astronomical!

Cam Lustrous!

A I’d go as far as saying that it might even outshine Sirius, and we all know his scorching reputation.

O Yes, indeed we do. But that’s not an open and shut space I want to consider just yet – it feels like a step too star at this planetary conjecture.

*Stars all looked puzzled at each other.*

Uma I think he means we shouldn’t jump to any conclusions.

O Yes – that’s exactly what I said!

A So what do you propose that we do, Orion? We have known many new stars over the centuries – including the likes of Cam and Lyn here. But they didn’t arrive unannounced – we were enlightened of their appearance before it happened.

O And that’s why I’ve been searching the celestial archives and the universal web to try and discover what this may mean. But as yet, I have found nothing – it’s a complete blackout.

Cam But do you think we should be worried about it, then? I mean, a star can’t just appear out of nowhere, can it?

*Enter Angel Gabriel and Beth. All the stars immediately stand at Gabriel’s appearance and bow their heads.*

O Angel Gabriel! What a surprise to see you here.

AG Oh, you know me, Orion – always appearing when least expected. That’s what it’s like when you work for the Almighty. Now he told me that you have been calling extraordinary meetings of the Galactic Watch and that I should pop in just to make sure everything is OK – is it?

O I think that you probably know more than we do, Gabriel. So perhaps you’d like to shed some light on the situation, and also introduce us to your new friend?

AG Yes, of course, how rude of me. This is Beth – Star of Bethlehem – appointed by God to shine to announce the coming of his son to earth. So you see, Orion, if you had looked at the Holy Scriptures first, you may have discovered why a new star has appeared in the east, and that it is not a secret at all, but one foretold by the prophets as God’s plan to save the world.

O Oh my! I am so sorry, Gabriel – it didn’t even cross my aura that the time may have come for this. I hope the Almighty isn’t too cross with us for being startled by Beth’s appearance.

AG The Almighty is never surprised by his creation – he accepts all of our limitations. But I hope you now understand that this is nothing for any of you to worry about, but rather it is a time of great celebration, and you are all going to have a part to play in it.

A Us? All part of the planned celebrations?

AG Indeed! Beth has a leading role in the plan, but all the heavens are required to declare the glory of the Lord and announce the arrival of the everlasting light to earth. So tonight, there’ll be no hiding behind the clouds, but rather you’ll all be shining as brightly as you can as the heavens declare the birth of the Christ Child.

 Lyn Wow! That all sounds out of this world! Delighted to meet you, Beth *(moves to shake hands).* I’m Lyn– you certainly have bagged yourself a starring role.

B Thank you. It has felt a little daunting since being put in place, but I will do my best to keep shining as needed.

Cam *(Stepping forward)* Hi, I’m Cam – and I’m sorry that we were all stalking you a bit last night. You’re welcome to join us for a Starpurks any time – they deliver to the Milky Way now, you know.

B That’s wonderful to hear – I’ll look forward to joining you all in the clouds or at the Constellation Street Cafe.

AG As much as I hate to disrupt your star date plans, the sun is now beginning to set, so we all need to get to our places in time for the big reveal. You all need to shine like diamonds tonight. And I’ve got some shepherds to visit – so let’s go.

*All start to exit*

A Well done, Orion! You were as right as ever about there being a new star.

O Thank you, my friend – you’re a true princess for saying that. And I knew that I’d be proved right, lunar or later!

*Theme tune plays – all exit*

## Scene 5

*Theme Tune plays*

Song ‘It was on a starry night’

*As the song is sung, Beth enters and stops centre stage; all the other stars follow and form up around the edge. Nativity characters enter to form a central Nativity tableau, including Angel Gabriel.*

*At the conclusion of the song, all exit as theme tune plays*

## Scene 6

*Theme tune plays*

*All stars enter blowing party blowers / trumpets or firing party poppers*

O What a night! I don’t think I’ve ever known anything more wonderful since the creation of the world.

A It was amazing! The Almighty certainly knows how to throw a party.

Uma I don’t think I’ve come back down to orbit yet – it was surreal.

Umi Surreal! Cosmic! Phantasmic! It was beyond worlds!

Cam I’ve seen some atmospheric changes in my time, but nothing on this scale. Even Aurora Borealis had nothing on this!

Lyn And did you clock the faces of those shepherds when Angel Gabriel suddenly appeared? They were certainly starstruck by his radiance.

A Indeed they were! And yet they still did what he told them, and by our light they were able to follow Beth to find the Baby Jesus lying in the manger.

O Beth did an outstanding job – deserves the best newcomer at next year’s Star Academy Awards in my humble opinion. But I’m sure God doesn’t need me to tell him that.

*Beth enters greeted with cheers and more blowing of trumpets*

Cam And here she is – the star of the moment. Orion was just saying how you should get a Star Academy Award for that performance tonight.

B Well, that’s exceedingly kind of you to say, but I was simply reflecting the glory of God, as we all were.

A That is true, Beth. But you were the star attraction in it all.

B Oh no, I definitely wasn’t! How could I be when the Light of the World was born to be the Saviour of all. His light will shine in the darkness and never be overcome, for he is the everlasting light.

O You are so right, Beth, and all the residents of Constellation Street need to remember that he is the true light, while we are merely his created celestial bodies that shine for him throughout the heavens.

Cam We know that’s true, Orion – but tonight we shone magnificently and deserve to celebrate! So let’s stop all this hanging around and head to Mars Bar for some Astral Punch and a Star Gazey Pie, because I’m star-ving!

Lyn That’s the best laid planet I’ve heard since dawn. And we can dance with the stars until nightfall, when we’ll need to shine again.

*Stars excitedly exit blowing their trumpets, except for Orion and Andromeda*

A I think my all-day partying is over, Orion – I just want to put my twinkle out and sleep in heavenly rest.

O Yes, I agree. Let the young stars have their supernova, but I’m off for a shower and to watch some satellite TV – you never know, we might even have landed on the Cosmos News at 10.

A Oh, I think that after tonight, our stardom will go on for light years. And those humans – that God loves so much that he sent his only son to save them – they’ll be singing about us for centuries to come. For we are all the people’s constellation, which shone upon a midnight clear in Bethlehem, and silently welcomed the Everlasting Light so the hopes and fears of all the years are forever met in him.

O Amen, my friend – I couldn’t comet any better myself!

*Theme tune plays – all exit*