

# Genealogy Girls

By Caitlin Werth

A drama based on Matthew 1:1-17

Used with author's permission

READER reads Matthew 1:1-17. As each character's name is read they enter, one by one, and take their place on the "family tree." Characters include: Rahab, Ruth, Tamar, Mary, and Bathsheba. After a pause, Rahab slowly "wakes up" and speaks.

RAHAB

(looks around, then whispers)

Ruth...psst...hey, Ruth... RUTH!

RUTH

(sleepily)

Hmm?

RAHAB

Well, uh . . . what is this? I mean what are we all doing here?

RUTH

Rahab. When did you get here?

RAHAB

I don't know! What is this?

RUTH

(looking around at the other women)

Well, let's see... it looks like some kind of family reunion...see look, there's Tamar!

RAHAB

Oh, let's ask her. She's got to have some wisdom—she's REALLY old. Tamar, what's going on?

TAMAR

(slowly)

Ruth? Rahab?

RUTH

Hi Tamar.

TAMAR

Wow, it's great to see you!

RAHAB

Yeah, it's good to see you too. A little strange, I guess. . . but good.

TAMAR

I've never been able to see my great great great great great great great great great great great great great grandchildren all in one place. You look wonderful.

RUTH

Thank you. You don't look so bad yourself, I mean, you're what, 1000?

RAHAB

Ruth, focus. Tamar, what's happening here?

TAMAR

Well...let's see...there's you...Ruth... And, oh, Mary's over there...I think it's a family tree!

RUTH

But... why? How?

RAHAB

Let's go ask Mary. Mother of Jesus and all. She's got good connections. Maybe she knows what's going on.

RUTH

Mary...Mary, wake up!

MARY

(looking around)

Wow. What is this?

RAHAB

We think it's a family tree! You know, great great great great great great ancestors, all in one place.

MARY

Yeah, but why?

RAHAB

That's what we want to know

RUTH

(pointing at BATHSHEBA)

And what is she doing here?

BATHSHEBA

(getting up)  
Excuse me?

MARY

Yes, what are you doing here? Aren't family trees just for people in the family?

BATHSHEBA

What are you talking about? I'm family just as much as SHE is (looking at RAHAB)

RAHAB

Me?!

TAMAR

(getting it, pointing at BATHSHEBA)  
She's the one who slept with David!

RUTH

(to BATHSHEBA)  
So, you're not really family!

TAMAR

Yeah, she's an adulteress! (to BATHSHEBA) You were Uriah's wife!

BATHSHEBA

Like you should talk! You slept with your father in law.

RAHAB

Ew!

BATHSHEBA

Which means your son is also your brother-in-law.

RUTH

And your grandson...is your nephew!

TAMAR

Well he's also Salmon's great great great grandfather. (looking at RAHAB) You know, Salmon. Who slept with a prostitute.

RAHAB

Hey! At least I didn't trick my way into the family.

TAMAR

What?

RAHAB

Oh, I heard all about your disguising yourself and trapping Judah with his seal, cord and staff. And Miss Thing over there was bathing on the roof...probably just to get the King's attention...

BATHSHEBA

And don't leave Ruth out of this...she snuck in on Boaz and lay herself at his "feet" to get what she wanted.

RUTH

(looking at BATHSHEBA)

You know what, it's a good thing I did sleep at Boaz's feet because Boaz and I begat Obed, who begat Jesse who begat David

BATHSHEBA

Okay, but then we begat Solomon and after a lot more begetting, you get Joseph—you know, the step-father of Jesus.

TAMAR

Hey, I started all this begetting WAY before you did!

BATHSHEBA

Yeah, with your ex-husband's DAD!

MARY

Everyone stop fighting!

TAMAR

(to BATHSHEBA) Roof-bather!

BATHSHEBA

(to TAMAR) Pervert!

MARY

STOP!!!!

BATHSHEBA

Oh, look. The unwed mother has something to say.

MARY

Stop it! Seriously, this is ridiculous. Tamar, you slept with Judah because he had broken a promise and you were holding him to honor that promise. And Rahab, you put yourself in great danger to hide spies from the King of Jericho. And Ruth gave her mother-in-law a son. It's all there in the Old Testament.

TAMAR  
That's true.

MARY  
But you know the most amazing part?

BATHSHEBA  
That we're all here at the same time?

MARY  
Well, yes... But no.

RUTH  
That a bunch of us are gentiles?

MARY  
No.

TAMAR  
That we're having this conversation in some sort of [*insert description of location where skit is being performed – originally said “cafeteria”*]?

MARY  
NO!! You said it yourselves. Our lineage led to Jesus. The Savior of the world.

BATHSHEBA  
I don't think so. Someone who had "relations" with her dad could not be part of Jesus' lineage

TAMAR  
Oh, but you could?

RAHAB  
Stop it, you two. Listen. A promise was made to me that I would be remembered, and maybe Mary's right. Maybe this is how.

RUTH  
But I don't think I'm good enough to be included in that lineage. Why would God want me to be connected to something so big?

MARY  
Ruth – You, Rahab, Tamar, Bathsheba—all of us, scarred and broken as we are, we're part of Jesus' family tree. All of us. One big family of God.

Slowly, all the women go back to their places on the “tree,” one at a time, and freeze.