

Ashamed

CHARACTERS: 2 plus as many extras as desired

PROPS: Bible and songbook

COSTUMES: Street clothes

SETTING: A bus is implied

Besides the man and old lady as many extras as are wanted can be added as riders and the bus driver OLD LADY character is quite deaf and speaks more loudly than necessary, much to the consternation of MAN. Passengers can be reading a magazine, listening with headphones to music which they move to, looking through a purse, trying to nap, etc.

At Rise: Man is stage left. "Bus" and passengers as stage left. Light on Man only or if lights are not being used the "bus" people are frozen with heads bowed.

MAN: *(Exasperated, on phone)* I can't lead singing tonight. I have plans. *(Pause)* Besides, my car's broken down *(Pause)* Take the bus? *(Resigned)* I guess I could. OK, OK Bye *(Mumble and grumble and collect Bible and songbook. Moves to "bus" and "passengers raise heads and "come alive". Man hails bus, pantomimes getting on, dropping in coins and takes a seat next to OLD LADY)*

OLD LADY: *(Looking over at the man and what's in his lap. He has the Bible stacked on top of the songbook)* Whatcha got there, sonny? Is that a Bible?

(Man nods, embarrassed, tries to hide the Bible. Rest of the passengers just look up occasionally and seem unaware of the scene unfolding before them which makes his behavior even more ridiculous)

OLD LADY: Are you a Christian?

MAN: *(Barely audible)* Yes.

OLD LADY: Speak up, sonny. I can't hear ya. I asked if that was a Bible. Can't see so well anymore.

MAN: Yes, it is. *(Looks around hoping no one is listening. No one is. He hides Bible under song book hoping to end the conversation)*

OLD LADY: *(Peering intently)* Is that a hymnal? Looks like one we had when I was a kid. *(Reaches for it). Let me see that (MAN tries to keep it away from her but she grabs it and starts thumbing through)* Oh, Do you know this one? *(She starts singing The Old Rugged Cross)* Man really getting embarrassed nods, says Yes, and tries to close the songbook and get it back in his possession; OLD LADY wrestles it back into her lap. Man rolls his eyes, looks around embarrassed)

OLD LADY: I know this one *(Begins singing a familiar hymn. No one but the man notices)*

MAN: *(Hurriedly)* Yup, I sure do know that one. *(Tries to get the book back but is unsuccessful)*

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OLD LADY: *(Thumbing through hymnal)* Here's one I don't know. Do you know it? *(She shows it to MAN who shakes head "No". OLD LADY speaks even louder)* Are you sure you don't know this song? *(More definitely "no")*

OLD LADY: *(Reading)* I'm not ashamed to own my Lord. You sure you don't know it?

MAN: NO!! *(MAN snatches the songbook and jams it under Bible. Other passengers look up mildly interested in the loud noise)*

OLD LADY: *(Dead on)* I didn't think you would.