

Ruth – The Radio Melodrama

By Kathy Applebee



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CAST

Studio Manager
 Ruth
 Naomi
 Leah
 Black Bart
 Boaz
 Rabbi Ronald
 Hoglah
 Assistants 1 & 2



Studio Manager:

Welcome to the studio of KCCC Radio – all the gospel, all the time. Tonight we'll be broadcasting "Ruth – The Melodrama". As our studio audience you'll be providing the sound effects. When the assistants hold up the sign, you provide the designated sound effect. We'll have a practice run through before we go on the air.

Assistant 1 holds up "Praise God" You all shout "Praise God"

Assistant 2 holds up "Boo Hiss" You say "Boo Hiss"

Assistant 1 holds up "Awww" You say "AWWWWW"

Assistant 2 holds up "Clip Clop" Drum your hands on your table six times to make the sound of a donkey clip clopping along

Studio Manager:

(To the cast) Places everyone. And we are on the air in 5, 4,3,2,1 Welcome to "Ruth- the Melodrama". The real story of Ruth can be found in the Old Testament. Our studio audience, and folks at home, I have to tell ya, they look like a good one, will be providing the sound effects.

We begin our story in the beautiful, bountiful Bethlehem Barley fields of a man named Boaz. Boaz, the bashful Barley Farmer. Boaz is a wealthy but unmarried man, despite his mother's best efforts to fix him up. It is the time of the barley harvest and his workers and the many women gleaning behind them are in the fields harvesting. Among them we find Ruth and Leah. Leah is about to pick up a snake when...

Ruth

(Shouting) Leah, don't touch that! *(Leah jumps back in shock)*

Leah

What's wrong! Is this your special barley sheaf?

Ruth

No! Leah, that was a snake, not a barley sheaf!

Leah

I have weak eyes and get mixed up all the time. Thank you Ruth; you may have saved my life.
Praise God (*Praise God*)

Ruth

Yes, let us thank the Lord

Leah

You believe in God. I thought you Moabite people worshiped stars and cows and apple dumplings.

Ruth

(*Melodramatically*) No, even though I am from the foreign land of Moab, I worship Naomi's God, the God of Israel.

Leah

How was it you came to be here in Bethlehem anyway?

Ruth (*Puts down her script likes she's going to make stuff up and say it over the air*)

It's a long story. When I was about 4...

Studio Manager: (*Pretending to cover the microphone*) This is a half hour show, stick to the script.

(*Ruth makes a face at her and picks the script back up. Studio Manager takes hand off mic*)

Ruth:

(*Gets back to script with a scowl*) Naomi and her family moved to Moab. Naomi's husband died. I married Naomi's son Mahlon. He died. Then Naomi's only other son died. With all the men dead we thought we better move. (*Giant sigh*) I take care of Naomi for she is elderly and depressed. It's not easy being a widow, all alone, without protection. (*Awwwwww*) Widows get taken advantage of where I come from in Moab

Leah

They get taken advantage of here too. So do women who are almost blind. The other day at the marketplace some merchant working for Black Bart (*Boo Hiss*) sold me a rock. She told me it was an egg.

Ruth

That's terrible.

Leah

Sure was. I must have spent 30 minutes trying to crack the thing open. That's not the worst one. Once I asked for a fish and some kid who worked for Black Bart (*Boo Hiss*) handed me a scorpion. Thank God it crawled away before it could sting me to death. (*Praise God*)

Ruth

How awful. Who is this Black Bart?

Leah

(Aside to audience) She must be new if she hasn't heard of Black Bart of the Black Heart. *(To Ruth)* His real name is Bartholomew BenYucky but everyone calls him Black Bart because his heart is as black as coal. As black as the night without a moon. As black as...

Ruth

(Cutting her off) Ok, Ok. I get the idea. He's a creepy kinda guy. He's our landlord.

Leah

How awful. I've heard he sells people into slavery if they can't pay their rent on time.

Ruth

I hope Naomi has our rent saved up. I'd hate to see her *(Aside to audience)* And me for that matter *(Back to Leah)* Sold into slavery.

Leah

You're a pretty nice girl, for a foreigner, that is.

Ruth

(Melodramatic, hand on forehead. Think Scarlet O'Hara going to save Tara) I may be a foreigner now but one day I will belong in this land.

LEAH *(During this next bit of dialogue two male characters can upstage them and be silly, acting it out like girly girls without Leah and Ruth being aware of it.)*

Maybe so. Hand me that string to tie off this barley sheaf *(points to the ground)*

Ruth

Leah, that's no string, it's another snake. *(Aside to audience)* Her eyes must be really bad.

Studio Manager

The barley harvest continued for many days. The two young women became fast friends. It was hard work, following behind the workers, picking up barley and keeping Leah from picking up snakes.

Leah:

All this barley harvesting is hard thirsty work. Hand me that water jar, please. *(points)*

Ruth

There isn't any water jar. That's a pile of manure from a donkey *(Clip, clop)*.

Leah

Oh. I wish I could see like everyone else. *(Pause)* How I wish I were back home, lounging around being fanned by handmaids while I ate figs and dates.

Ruth:

You used to lounge around eating figs and dates?

Leah

No but I wish I could.

Ruth

(Melodramatic, hand on forehead) Me too, but alas. My family has fallen on hard times. This is the only way to support my family. My husband and his brother passed away. My father-in-law has passed away. I am a stranger in a strange land, and you Leah, my only friend.

Leah:

Look yonder, Ruth. *(Pointing)* There's a tree stump riding a flying carpet.

Ruth:

It's a man on a donkey. *(Clip Clop)* He's dressed in black.

Leah:

(Confused) Why would anyone dress a donkey in black?

Ruth

No, Leah, the man is dressed in black.

Leah

Can't really see. Is he ugly?

Ruth

I think so. And he has a mean air about him *(One of the male characters plugs his nose like something stinks and the other male character is trying to keep himself from laughing out loud on the radio)*

Leah:

I bet it's that bureaucratic big shot Black Bart coming to get your rent.

Ruth

(Tragically, back of hand to forehead) Dear me, and Naomi home alone. I pray God watches over her.

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Studio Manager: *(Assistants get out their mops and twirl them above their heads)*

Folks. You're listening to KCCC radio – all the gospel, all the time. Now back to our show – Ruth – The Melodrama. Meanwhile back at the hovel that Naomi and Ruth call home..... Naomi is sweeping in front of the hovel as a man alights from his donkey. (*Boo Hiss*)

Naomi:

God's peace be upon you.

Bart:

Who cares about peace (*Boo Hiss*)? I am Bartholomew of Bartholomew and Bartholomew. Our slogan is "We rent substandard properties". I am tired and thirsty. It's a long way from my rich and prosperous section of Bethlehem to your disgusting and homely little hovel. (*Bart mispronounces hovel as "who ville". Studio manager whispers the correct pronunciation to him*)

Naomi:

Yes, I was hoping you might be making some improvements. Let me get you a drink of water.

Bart:

Water the donkey while you're at it, old woman. (*Boo Hiss*) (*Aside to audience*) She's so old her birth certificate is expired.

Naomi:

(*To Bart*) Sir, here is your water. I will call my daughter in to water your donkey as I am too old and crippled to do so myself. We are poor folks who have fallen on hard times

Bart:

(*Aside to audience*) They're so poor they can't afford to pay attention. Your hard times are precisely why I am here.

Naomi:

Praise God! (*Praise God*) Perhaps you might see your way clear to reduce our rent?

Bart:

Of course! Of Course! But there is one condition.

Naomi:

Anything!

Bart:

I will marry your daughter, Ruth the Moabite. Everyone is saying she's quite a hard worker and I like hard work in a woman. Means less for me to do. (*Boo Hiss*)

Naomi:

What kind of mother do you think I am that I would marry my daughter off to a man like you?

Bart:

A very poor indebted one who has no choice but to do as I want. (*Boo Hiss*)

Naomi:

Marriage to my lovely Ruth is out of the question Black Bart. Your dastardly deeds are well known in Bethlehem.

Bart:

In that case – I'll take the rent money now. Three pieces of silver

Naomi

(*Tragically with back of hand to forehead*) I can't pay the rent. We don't have three pieces of silver

Bart

Then I'll take two and come back for the other one tomorrow at sundown

Naomi

But we don't have two pieces of silver (*starting to get a shaky voice*)

Bart

Then I'll take one piece of silver and come back for the other two tomorrow at sundown.

Naomi

(*Starting to cry*) But we don't even have one piece of silver.

Bart

In that case I'll come back tomorrow at sundown. You'll either give me the three pieces of silver OR Ruth will marry me OR (*Laughing evilly*) I will sell you as a slave to pay your debt for the rent. (*Boo Hiss*)

Naomi

You wouldn't.

Bart

Of course I would. I'm Black Bart.

Naomi

Ruth will never marry a despicable detestable disgusting derelict like you.

Bart: (*Evil laugh*)

But I will have her, one way or another.

Naomi: (*Upset*)

Why you dirty dog! You greedy goat!

Bart:

It is unwise to insult your future son-in-law. You have no husband. Your sons are all dead. You are alone and without protection.

Naomi:

God will watch over us. I would rather be sold as a slave than see you marry my daughter, you wicked worm! You slippery, slimy swine!

Bart:

Ah, but do you think selling yourself would bring in enough money? No. You're so old they didn't have history class when you were in school. Ruth will be sold as well.

Naomi: (*Sputtering*)

You, you Swilling, sweating, swollen swine!

Bart:

(*Condescendingly*) Temper, temper. If you give me her hand in marriage you will gain a generous, prosperous and might I add, good looking, son-in-law and the threat of eviction will be completely eliminated. Think it over. But don't take too long! I'll be back tomorrow. Have the rent money OR ELSE. (*Boo Hiss*)

Naomi:

What am I to do? O woe is me! That Black Bart is the most vile, vicious villain in the village. What am I to do? What am I to do? (*Awwwwwww*) (*Cast visibly relaxes, fans themselves, take a drink of water as there is a commercial break*) ++++++=====

Studio Manager

You've been listening to Ruth- the Melodrama here on KCCC radio – all the gospel, all the time. After a hard day in the barley fields Ruth returns to the hovel.

Ruth:

Mother. Look, here is the barley I gleaned for our supper tonight.

Naomi

I am too upset to eat. We may be forced out of house and home!

Ruth:

What is it mother?

Naomi:

Black Bart our landlord. If we don't have the rent money by sundown tomorrow he will sell us as slaves.

Ruth

Isn't there anything we can do?

Naomi

(Pausing for dramatic effect, most melodramatically) He says you can marry him.

Ruth:

(Matching her melodrama) The very thought of marrying Black Bart makes me feel ill. But I will do it, if it is our only choice.

Naomi:

Never! I'll not have you tethered to that terrible tyrant. *(Cocking her head to listen)* What's that noise I hear?

Bart:

It is I Black Bart. *(Boo Hiss)* I have returned to have my donkey watered. *(Aside to audience)* And to see my prospective bride. *(To Ruth)* There you are my pretty. Come give your future husband a kiss.

Ruth:

Never!

Bart:

(With a little growl) I like a woman who plays hard to get!

Ruth:

I've heard the stories about you.

Bart:

I'm sure you have, my dear. I'm sure you have. I am a wealthy, sophisticated, and might I add good looking, man. I'm sure all the girls just swoon at the mention of my name.

Ruth: *(The Leah character upstages like she is poking her finger down her throat and gagging. The Hogleh and Boaz character try hard not to laugh out loud. The Black Bart character gives them a dirty look and so does the Studio Manager)* *(To Bart)* Let me water your donkey and then you will have no reason to prolong your visit. *(Exits)*

Bart:

Yes, yes. What a spirited fine looking girl. *(To Naomi in a menacing tone)* And I will have her with or without your help, old woman.

Studio Manager:

Naomi and Bart traded insults while Ruth watered the donkey.

BART:

You're so old, Eve autographed your yearbook.

NAOMI

You're so mean you make onions cry.

Studio Manager

It went on for a long time since (*switching into the sing song voice of one telling a story for the 400th time*) donkeys can drink gallons of water and poor Ruth had only a small cracked jar, making for many trips to and from the well, which was some distance away, during a snowstorm, uphill in both directions.

Ruth and Naomi were sore distressed. They did not sleep a wink. The next day Ruth returned to Boaz's field to glean barley and was joined by Leah, eager for the news of the mysterious dastardly villain who had visited her hovel the previous day.

Leah

So who was that on the flying carpet, Ruth?

Ruth

Donkey. It was a donkey, Leah and riding upon it was Black Bart. (*Tearfully*) If I don't marry him he'll evict us from our sweet little hovel and sell us into slavery. (*Melodramatically, hand on forehead*) If it were only myself in his clutches I would gladly become a slave rather than marry him. But I can't let my wonderful but feeble widowed mother-in-law be sold. I may have to marry Black Bart. (*Boo Hiss*)

Leah:

That would be a terrible fate, worse than death.

Ruth:

(*Back of hand to forehead, dramatically*) But what am I to do? I am poor, female, and a stranger in a strange land. (*AWWWWW*)

Leah

(*Aside to audience*) Three strikes. (*To Ruth*) Leave everything in my hands. When the sunsets I'll take your barley home to Naomi and you stay here and help clean up the threshing floor in my place.

Ruth

What do you have in mind?

Leah

There's someone I want you to run into. You just worry about the sweeping and leave the details to me.

Studio Manager:

That evening Ruth stayed behind to help clean up Boaz's threshing floor. She was so busy sweeping she failed to notice Boaz putting supplies away. He was so busy putting supplies away he failed to notice her. Suddenly, they backed into each other.

Boaz:

(With surprise) Oh my! A woman! P P P Peace be unto you.

Ruth

And peace be unto you. *(Uncomfortable silence of several beats)*

Boaz

(Uncomfortable, not knowing what to say) I I I I.. I've n -n -n- noticed you glean in my f-f-f-f-fields. W- w -w -w-w what is your name?

Ruth

Ruth. Thank you for letting me glean here.

Boaz

(Mumbling with shyness) I have noticed what a hard worker you are, Ruth. No one has ever swept the floor and made it gleam before.

Ruth

Did you say glean or gleam.

Boaz

Gleam.

Ruth

Gleam as in shiny clean?

Boaz

Yes, gleaming clean after the glean. I say, you look lean. Is it some new diet?

Ruth

It's the poverty diet. *(Sorrowfully)* Gleaning is the only way to keep my mother-in-law, Naomi and I fed. I appreciate you allowing me to glean in your field. We'd have starved to death without your generosity.

Boaz:

(Getting tongue tied) Shucks, it was nothing ma'am. *(getting uncomfortable and tongue tied)* Here. Take home some extra barley tonight.

Ruth

You are too kind. Thank you. *(As she exits, aside to audience)* My hero! *(Awwwww)*

Boaz

What a remarkable young woman. Hard working, kind, pleasant. Not to mention cute. (*Discouraged*)
Too bad I never know what to say to women. (*Sighs and goes back to work*)

Hoglah (*Jewish accent if possible*)

Boaz, my son. You are hopeless. You should have asked her to marry you.

Boaz

Out of the blue I'm going to ask some girl I just met to marry me? I need to wait until she gets to know me better.

Hoglah

Last time you waited for the girl to get to know you better she married Timmy the Tailor. And the one before that married George the Goatherd. And the girl before that married Sammy the Shepherd. And before that...

Boaz

(*Gently cutting her off*) I know mother. But I'm shy. It never quite seems to be the right time to propose.

Hoglah

At this rate you will never get married. You should let Martha the Matchmaker fix you up.

Boaz

No. I wish I were Adam. Adam had it lucky.

HOGLAH

Why? Because Eve was a hottie?

Boaz:

No, because he had no mother in law. Martha would match me with one of her daughters and I don't want Martha the Matchmaker as a mother-in-law. (*Aside to audience*)

Hoglah

Martha the Matchmaker would possibly be the worst mother-in-law in the world. But my son, you're not getting any younger. What about that Ruth?

Boaz:

She wouldn't be interested in a man like me, mother. (*Making excuses*) I'm just a farmer. I'm too old for her. I.... (*The truth finally comes out*) I just couldn't ask her.

Hoglah

Nonsense. You're a fine upstanding member of the community; kind, respected and I would make the world's best mother-in-law. (*Aside to rest of cast*) No mother-in-law jokes.

Boaz

I'll need some time to think this over, mother.

Hoglah

(*Hands on hips*) Don't take too long. I'm not getting any younger either and I want to see some grandchildren!

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Studio Manager: Folks. You're listening to KCCC radio – all the gospel, all the time. Now we return to our show Ruth – The Melodrama – being broadcast live from the radio studio of KCCC radio - all of the gospel, all of the time. A possible ray of sunshine has appeared in our tale of woe and poverty.

Meanwhile back at the hovel, Leah is desperately trying to think of a plan to stop the wedding. With her bad eyesight, she mistakes a Jewish Rabbi for Black Bart.

Leah

Mr. Bart. How nice to meet such a handsome and generous man. All the girls in the gleaning club talk about you. (*Aside to audience*) Tiny camel though...

Rabbi

(*Hobbling along in an older quavering voice*) No, no, my dear. I'm Rabbi Ronald. And this is my donkey. I'm here to make arrangements for Ruth's impending marriage to Black Bart. (*Aside to audience*) Or officiate at a slave auction.

Leah

Oh, the rabbi. My eyes are a little weak, you know.

Rabbi

(*Aside to audience*) I knew there must be something wrong with her eyes. I have never in all my years have hear ANYONE refer to Black Bart as handsome OR generous

Leah

Rabbi, maybe this wedding should be delayed.

Rabbi

I need the money. Black Bart is my landlord too. (*Aside to audience*) My retirement plan was not the best. (*To Leah*) The wedding is tomorrow or else I hold a slave auction.

Leah

Is there nothing that will change your mind?

Rabbi
Ten pieces of silver

Leah
Ten pieces of silver! What kind of Rabbi would demand silver to stop a terrible tragedy?

Rabbi
(*Sadly*) A rabbi who owes Black Bart ten pieces of silver and will have his wife and children sold if he does not pay by sunset.

Leah
I see. (*To audience*) Actually, I don't see. (*To Rabbi*) Until tomorrow, Rabbi. (*Rabbi Exits*) (*Clip Clop*)

Leah
(*To audience*) What will we do? I must try to stop this wedding. Look, here comes someone else now. (*Clip Clop*) I hope its Black Bart this time.

Bart:
(*Impatient*) Stand aside wench. You're blocking the way into the horrible hovel (*Everyone yells the right pronunciation*). I'm here to see Naomi, a rabbi and my future bride, Ruth.

Leah
(*Thinking quickly*) Oh, so you're the poor man who is going to fall under the Moabite Curse. You poor, poor man.

Bart
(*Confused*) Moabite curse. What are you talking about?

Leah
(*Looking around confidentially*) You mean no one told you! The Moabite Curse. It falls upon all men who marry into this family. You know how Naomi and Ruth left Moab quite suddenly.

Bart
(*Gleefully*) Yes, driven by poverty into my waiting clutches.

Leah
Poverty!? They're on the run from the law. Have you not heard about (*Stage whisper*) all the deaths?

Bart
Yes, yes. How Naomi is a widow. Everyone knows that. (*Gloating*) She's an OLD powerless widow who will not be able to stand in my way.

Leah
Mr. Bart, there is somethingI feel that you should rightfully be informed before the wedding ceremony. (*Pauses for effect*) And it's not going to make you happy.

Bart

(Nonchalantly) What? Does Ruth burn dinner? Can't she darn socks adequately? I'll have her whipped into shape in no time. Black Bart always gets his way.

Leah

What I mean is Naomi's not the only widow living here.

Bart:

(Demanding an answer) What do you mean? A pack of those helpless creatures live under the roof of this hovel. *(Everyone yells the right pronunciation)* I should have charged more rent.

Leah: Not exactly a pack. Ruth is a widow. Her husband died.

Bart

(Growing more concerned) Died?

Leah

(Tragically, over acting, back of hand to head). Deceased. Extinct. Dearly departed. *(Studio manager glares at her for adding to the script)* Dropped dead. Keeled over *(Everyone is now glaring at her to shut up)* And he's not the only one.

Bart

(Becoming quite concerned) He's not.

Leah

Nope, Ruth's her brother-in-law too. Naomi's other son. He was young. Naomi lost both of her sons in Moab to the Moabite Curse

Bart

(The light comes on, aside to audience as Leah continues to ramble) *(Aside to audience)* Then Naomi isn't Ruth's mother. She's just a mother-in-law.

Leah

All three husbands. Dead as a doornail. Pushing up daisies. *(Everybody glares at her so she shuts up)* I sure wouldn't want to be living in a house with two women who keep having the men in their lives croak.

Bart

(The light is getting brighter) I'm under no obligation to support a mother-in-law. Since Naomi is not blood kin I am relieved of any responsibility for providing her with support. When the weddings over, so is her residence in this hovel *(Everyone yells the proper pronunciation)*. Thank you for that interesting information. What a terrific day this has turned out to be. I love it when an evil plan comes together. *(Boo Hiss)* *(Exits)*

Leah

(Horried) Oh, no! What have I done? My plan has backfired. It just goes to show that lying never pays! Not only did I NOT stop the wedding, now poor old Naomi is going to be homeless AND

familyless. (*Aside and out of character to Studio Manager.*) Is familyless a real word? (*The rest of the cast look at each other and shrug their shoulders*) (*Back in character*). Woe is me! (*Exits*)

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Studio Manager

Leah, tears blurring her already weak eyes, loses her way back to the Boaz Barley Farm. She spends the night and most of the next day wandering aimlessly until she stumbles upon the proper path. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, I mean barley farm, Boaz is counting up the sheaves of barley that had been harvested that afternoon.

Boaz

431, 432, 433, 434 ...

Hoglah

(*Entering and standing next to him*) Son, have you thought any more about marrying that girl, Ruth.

Boaz

Really mother. There's no rush. After the barley harvest I'll have plenty of time to think it over.

Leah

(*Wanders in crying.*) Woe is me! It's just such an awful, horrible, terrible situation.

Boaz

W-w-w-w-What has c-c-c-caused your d-d-d-distress?

Leah

My friend Ruth is being blackmailed into marrying that despicable Black Bart. She and Naomi can't pay the rent. And now... (*starts choking up*) and now he's going to kick poor old Naomi out of her hovel, sweet hovel and into the streets at sunset tonight. (*Sobbing uncontrollably*) It's all my fault.

Hoglah

(*To Boaz*) It's almost sunset now. You can't allow this to happen. You must act quickly.

Boaz

You're absolutely right, mother. I can't allow something so tragic to happen to such a nice girl as Ruth. I'll pay the rent.

Leah

(*With admiration*) You're a hero (*Awww*)

Hoglah

(*Bossy and demanding*) You'll do no such thing. Marry the girl and get me grandchildren. (*Daydreaming*) Grandchildren. A boy. A boy named Obed. I've always wanted a little Obed to play with...

Leah

Yes, marry Ruth. You won't regret it. But you have only until sunset. If Naomi and Ruth can't pay the rent, Ruth will be forced to marry him or she and Naomi will be sold as slaves.

Boaz

Then they're no time to lose (*Calling of stage*) Quick, saddle the fastest donkey. (*Clip Clop.*)

Studio Manager

Folks at home, you've been listening to Ruth – The Melodrama on KCCC radio, all the gospel. all the time. Now back to our show.

Meanwhile back at the hovel, (*Glares meaningfully at Black Bart because she can pronounce the word correctly*) Naomi and Ruth wring their hands and watch as the sun sinks slowly in the west. Black Bart could barely wait to do his dastardly deeds of despicable doings. As he urged his donkey (*Clip Clop*) onward Rabbi Ronald, who had no donkey, struggled to keep up.

Bart

Rabbi, stop dragging your feet. Make haste to the hideous, homely hovel (*Everyone corrects him*)

Rabbi Ronald

(*Out of breath and staggering to keep up*) But I'm an old man. And I don't have a donkey like you do. I had to sell it yesterday to pay the interest I owed you.

Studio Manager

Bart and Rabbi Ronald arrive at the hovel. Ruth and Naomi stand outside, clutching one another for support. Meanwhile the sun is slowly sinking in the west.

Bart

I've come for the rent

Naomi

But I can't pay the rent

Bart

But you must pay the rent

Ruth

But she can't pay the rent. Please, Mr. Bart. Give us another day.

Bart

Never! If you can't pay the rent, then you both must be sold as slaves to pay your debt. (*Then slowly and craftily*) Unless of course Ruth agrees to be my wife.

Ruth

(*Sobbing*) I can't allow Naomi to be sold into slavery. I'll marry you, Black Bart of the Black Heart.

Black Bart

Ha ha ha ha! My perfectly putrid plan has panned out. Rabbi, begin the ceremony.

Rabbi

(With sorrow) Then let us begin

STUDIO MANAGER:

Ruth and Bart join hands before the rabbi. Ruth is very reluctant and obviously disgusted. Bart beams from ear to ear. Naomi cries softly. *(Naomi cries into microphone)* Boaz enters and while he is trying to say something, Leah rushes in, out of breath, confused, and starts beating on Boaz

Leah

(Yelling) No! Over my dead body, Black Bart! Take this! And that!! *(Boaz is mumbling "Ouch", "Ow" into the mic as Leah beats on him)* Never! Never! I'll die before I see Ruth marry you, you scum, you swine, you greedy goat headed

Boaz

(Finally speaking) Wait! I'm Boaz, not Bart. And ... *(Heroically)* I'll pay the rent! *(Praise God)*

Leah

(Embarrassed) How embarrassing. *(Aside to audience)* I wish they'd hurry up and invent glasses

Boaz

And here is the rent money. *(jingles some coins by the microphone)*

Ruth

My hero! *(Awwwwww)*

Studio Manager:

Ruth and Boaz clasp hands and stare deeply into one another's eyes while Hoglah pays the Rabbi to perform the wedding.

Hoglah

I've waited for this moment for years!

Rabbi

Here's your ten silver coins Black Bart and don't bother me again! I'm moving to Jerusalem where you don't rent substandard properties.

Bart

Curses, foiled again. *(Praise God)*

Hoglah

On with the wedding!

Boaz

Wait mother.

Hoglah

(Dismayed) Not another delay! My son, you must act.

Boaz

Only if Ruth agrees of her own free will. *(To Ruth)* Ruth, will you marry me of your own free will? I don't want you to marry me because you are forced into it. I want us to be together forever because it is your choice. *(AWWWWWW)*

Ruth.

With all my heart I will marry you. *(AWWWWWWWW)*

Rabbi

We are gathered here to unite... *(Allows voice to rail off)* *(Leah, Hoglah and Naomi start crying loudly into the microphone.)*

Hoglah

I can't help it. I always cry at weddings! *(Blows nose again)*

Studio Manager

Ruth and Boaz were married. Obed became the father of Jesse and Jesse the father of King David. *(Pause)* And they all lived happily ever after. *(Praise God)*

Studio Manager:

Folks out there in radio land. I hope you have enjoyed KCCC radio's broadcast of Ruth- the Melodrama. Sound effects provided by our exceptionally fine studio audience. Stay tuned. We'll be back with another episode of Jezebel's Jewelry after these commercial messages.

Studio Manager: *(Breaking character as do the rest of the cast. These lines are done without the script)* And now for a final message.

I'm _____ and I played Rabbi Ronald who we just made up.

I'm _____ and I played Hoglah. Hoglah is a real Biblical name but she had nothing to do with Ruth.

I'm _____. I played Leah who really had weak eyes according to the Bible. But she is in Genesis not Ruth.

I'm _____. I played the evil, despicable and rotten Black Bart. There is no Black Bart in the Bible although Jesus did condemn some of the Pharisees for "devouring widow's houses" and not being kind. *(Holds up the "Boo Hiss" sign.)* Go ahead; let me have it one more time.

I'm _____ I played the part of Naomi, the mother-in-law. (No mother-in-law jokes please). Naomi is an actual character in the Bible. In Ruth 1:16 Ruth tells Naomi "Where you go, I will go and where you stay there I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God, my God." When Ruth chose the God of Israel, she became part of Naomi's family just as when we chose God the church becomes our spiritual family. We are no longer strangers in a strange land.

I'm _____. I played Ruth. We are all like Ruth. Even though we may be kind and hard working as Ruth was, we still needed a kinsman redeemer to rescue us, protect us and love us. Ruth became a bride of her own free will, just like we become the bride of Christ when we believe and are baptized.

I'm _____ and I played Boaz. Boaz really did marry Ruth and have a son named Obed. Boaz is a lot like Jesus. When we were powerless to save ourselves, he stepped in and paid our debt. Like Jesus, Boaz took Ruth to be his wife when she chose him of her free will. So Jesus waits for us to choose him of our free will.

I'm _____ and I played the Studio Manager. These are my assistants, _____ who helped with the signs. We hoped you enjoyed today's performance. Remember – Greater love has no man than this – to lay down his life for his friends.

Ruth - The Melodrama People <http://www.quia.com/hm/426238.html>

A hangman game based on the people related to the Biblical Ruth and "Ruth- the Melodrama"

Ruth - The Melodrama Scriptures <http://www.quia.com/ba/191472.html>

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Four ways to play and learn with matching, flashcards, concentration, word search

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