

Sometimes I feel like you're so beautiful, it almost frightens me. I didn't know I could love anyone so much.

(Simeon enters. He stops about 8 feet away and looks keenly at the baby. When Mary notices him, he smiles and speaks.)

SIMEON: Can I see Him?

MARY: Yes. *(She shows him the baby. Simeon inhales sharply.)*

SIMEON: It's Him. *(To God)* Oh Lord, it's Him, isn't it? *(To Mary)* You're not from around here, are you? My name is Simeon; people know me because I'm always here praying—praying and waiting for God to deliver Israel.

MARY: I'm Mary. My husband and I just came from Bethlehem, to dedicate the baby. Joseph's getting some doves.

SIMEON: Mary, I don't know if this makes any sense to you, but the Lord told me that I wouldn't die until I had seen the Messiah.

(He reaches out his arms while she nods and hands him the baby. He gazes at Him.)

SIMEON: Lord, now I can die in peace
For my eyes have seen your salvation
Prepared for all people
A light of revelation to the gentiles
And the glory of your people Israel!

(Mary watches, awed. Simeon hands the baby back and speaks to her.)

Bless you, Mary! Now listen—this child will cause the fall and rise of many in Israel. He is a sign that will be opposed, and the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. *(He pauses.)* And a sword will pierce your own soul too. *(He begins to walk away. Mary stops him with her question.)*

MARY: *(Frightened)* What do you mean—what do you see?

(Simeon shakes his head; he doesn't want to tell her.)

Because sometimes, I feel like there's a shadow over Him; I'll be watching him sleeping and He'll be so peaceful, but I get

