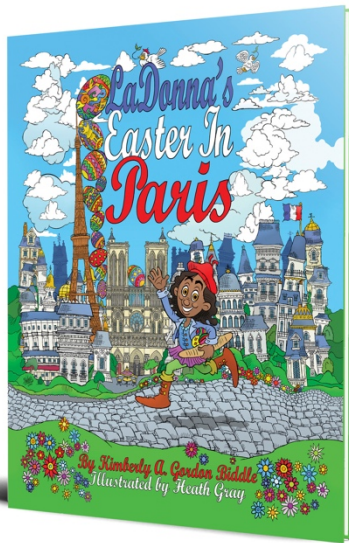


LaDonna's Easter in Paris

Readers Theater Script by Marcie Colleen



Read aloud *LaDonna's Easter in Paris* by Kimberly A. Gordon Biddle, illustrated by Heath Gray. Then, hand out a set of photocopied scripts to the class. Assign individual parts, the remaining children will be the Chorus. For the first run-through, children will simply read their role aloud. Once all readers are comfortable with their parts, a second reading can include props and costumes, if desired.

This script was created by Marcie Colleen, a former teacher with a BA in English Education from Oswego State and a MA in Educational Theater from NYU.

Marcie can often be found writing books of her own at home in San Diego, CA. Visit her at www.thisismarciecolleen.com.

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Roles:

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

LaDonna

Daddy

Mommy

Freddy

French Speaker

Hotel Concierge

Daniele

Narrator 1: It had been a long day at work, but LaDonna's Mommy was excited to be home.

Narrator 2: She had some exciting news she couldn't wait to share.

Mommy: Who wants to spend Easter in Paris?

Narrator 1: But she didn't quite get the response she wanted.

LaDonna: No Easter eggs or candy and no Easter church friends?

Narrator 2: LaDonna was unsure.

LaDonna: Can I take Freddy?

Freddy: Ribbit! Ribbit!

Mommy: I am afraid not. This is not a three hour road trip to Grandma's. It's an

Mommy & Chorus: 11 hour plane right over the Atlantic Ocean

Mommy: With a layover.

Daddy: LaDonna, maybe your friend Sally down the street or cuz' Amber can watch Freddy.

Freddy: Ribbit! Ribbit!

Narrator 2: She whines.

LaDonna: I don't want to go without Freddy. This is the

LaDonna & Chorus: worst Easter ever!

Mommy: C'mon, LaDonna, my business trip is this weekend and I want us to be together as a family. Imagine, Paris at Easter as a dream trip of a lifetime. We can experience

Mommy & Narrator 1: real French culture

Mommy & Narrator 2: and spirit.

Mommy: Let's not forget

Everyone: the real meaning of Easter.

Daddy: Let's go to Easter service at Notre Dame Cathedral!

Mommy: Yes! We can celebrate at Notre Dame.

Mommy & Daddy: C'mon, LaDonna, let's give it a try.

French speaker: D'accord, Je veux aller.

LaDonna: Ok I want to go. The majestic Notre Dame Cathedral might be perfect for Easter.

LaDonna & Freddy: Freddy will stay with Amber

Freddy: Ribbit! Ribbit!

LaDonna & her parents: because I am going to Paris for Easter.

LaDonna: Let's get packing!

Narrator 1: Clothes fly!

Narrator 2: Feet clumping up and down the stairs and hallways.

Narrator 1: Baskets of laundry in peculiar places.

Narrator 2: Clothes inspection and selection.

LaDonna: I hardly sleep that night.

Chorus: Dreaming of the elevator ride and endless steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Narrator 1: They were stuck on a layover and missed their first connection.

Chorus: We've been sitting on this plane for over two hours!

LaDonna: I'm tired and hungry.

French speaker: Ma mere, je suis fatigue et faim.

LaDonna: When will the plane fly and when will the rain quit?

Mommy: We're safe. I'm happy we're not flying in this serious storm.

Daddy: I'm happy our family is together.

Chorus: It could be worse.

Narrator 1 & 2: Then it got worse.

Mommy: I've missed my meeting. This delay is not good.

LaDonna: It'll be okay. Soon the rain will stop and we'll be flying.

LaDonna & her parents: We are together as a family; that's all that matters.

Chorus: And it's almost Easter.

Narrator 1: It rains and storms

Narrator 2: Constantly.

Narrator 1 & 2: But while LaDonna sleeps, the plane takes off.

Chorus: Wake up, LaDonna!

Daddy: Look at the colorful rainbow.

Mommy: See the brilliant blue of the sky.

Mommy & Daddy: Soon we'll be landing in Paris.

LaDonna: We're almost there and it's like

Chorus: waking up in Heaven.

LaDonna: What day is it and what time is it, because I am very hungry. I need something besides peanuts and pretzels.

Mommy: It's Saturday night in Paris.

Daddy: We missed touring

Mommy: and I texted my presentation PowerPoint.

Mommy & Daddy: Hopefully we can experience a true French Easter.

Narrator 1: After landing,

Daddy: Let's get our luggage

Mommy: get to the hotel

LaDonna: and get something to eat.

Narrator 2: The driver takes the scenic route through Paris.

Chorus: We see lights of the city,

Mommy & Daddy: cross the Seine,

All: and view a glowing Eiffel Tower.

Narrator 1 & 2: When they get to the boutique hotel, LaDonna has two questions

Narrator 1: Number 1

LaDonna: Where can we eat?

Narrator 2: And number 2.

LaDonna: When is Easter service at Notre Dame Cathedral?

Concierge: Sir and Madams, the hotel restaurant is closed at this time.

Chorus: Bummer!

Concierge: However, there is a little bistro down the street. They serve a very nice onion soup.

Chorus: Hooray!

Concierge: There are several Easter services at Notre Dame Cathedral, but the English service is

Chorus: tomorrow at 14:00 pm.

The Family: 14:00 pm.

Narrator 1: They walk down the block to the bistro

Narrator 2: and eat hearty servings of soup with baguettes.

Narrator 1: The air is crisp and clean.

Narrator 2: As they get walk back to the hotel,

LaDonna: Mommy points down one street

Narrator 1: to the shadow across a little bridge.

Mommy: Over the bridge is

All: Notre Dame Cathedral!

LaDonna: My excitement soars in the quiet night air.

Narrator 1: She gazes at the dark and Gothic building with chimera and gargoyles.

Narrator 2: Her heart pounds.

LaDonna & Chorus: The is the best Easter ever!

The Family: We sleep in late on Easter morning.

Chorus: 14:00 pm!

The Family: Our bodies and spirits are weary.

Chorus: 14:00 pm!

The Family: We run down the street,
 Mommy & Daddy: across the bridge, and to the cathedral
 LaDonna: just as the doors are closed.

Chorus: 14:00 pm!
 She runs. She knocks.

Daniele: The doors open again.

French Speaker/Daniele: Bonjour, mes amies.

French Speaker/LaDonna: Parlez vous Anglais?

French Speaker/Daniele: Mais oui.

Daniele: I am Daniele.

LaDonna: Is this the English service?

Daniele: It's the end of the French service and the last service of the day. English service was at...

Chorus: 14:00 pm?

Daniele: 12:00.

Chorus: Her heart sinks.

LaDonna: We come all this way;
 Chorus: endure rain, lightning, and thunder.

LaDonna: We starve and won't enjoy the service.

Narrator 1 & 2: Tears roll down her face.

LaDonna: But just as I am about to give up hope

Chorus: The bells of the cathedral chime with the most magical and triumphant tunes.

LaDonna: My tears of sadness turn to tears of joy.

Daniele: A gigantic chocolate Easter egg for you.

LaDonna: I didn't miss my Easter friends and candy after all.

Narrator 1 & 2: The priest declares...

French Speaker: Il est mort parce qu'il nous aimait. Il se leva avec toute la puissance dans sa main. Maintenant a vec cette ve'rite, sortez et partagez son amour a vec tous les gens.

LaDonna: I feel every word.

All: He died, because he loved us. He rose with all power in his hand. Now with this truth, go out and share his love with all people.

LaDonna: It's the true meaning of Easter.

Daniele: Daniele grins and gives LaDonna a hug.

LaDonna: Joyful tears stream down my face.

Mommy & Daddy: Mommy and Daddy embrace the girls.

All: Our trials are not in van; love is Easter's true meaning.

LaDonna: I can't wait to tell Freddy.

Freddy: Ribbit! Ribbit!

THE END