

mm — Where are the Shepherds?

Jean is attracted to abandoned creatures...

brings them into our living room at Christmas...

adopts them out of thrift stores....

Abandoned mothers and babies and animals of many sorts...

gathers them in family groups...

loves them.

I decided to count them the other evening...

6 camels

9 sheep

4 cows

3 donkeys

1 angel

21 crowned men

7 mothers

7 fathers

7 babies

1 baby in a standing lone mother's arms

Mothers were all named Mary...

babies all named Jesus...

fathers were all name Joseph...

the 21 men were either wise men or kings

She didn't know the lone mother or baby...

so she bought them too...

maybe it was Jesus' cousin John with Elizabeth.

No dogs or cats or birds or other creatures from the Ark...

and I also noticed...

0 shepherds!

I wondered why each crèche was abandoned...

left on a thrift store doorstep

to hope for a home for Christmas?

That inn with no room for a homeless family

haunts us every Christmas

taunts us with daily reminders on our own streets and borders.

Families abandoned into thrift shops...

without shepherds

or good news.

I watch them by candlelight while I wait for Christmas.

I take out my harmonica

and play a verse from "Away in a Manger."

Art Morgan *December 17, 2018*